

Beirut port reopens

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut port reopened Friday after being closed for 14 months because of civil war fighting and looting of equipment. A government committee said work was resuming at the port, damaged by shells and with many of its cranes, trucks and other vehicles stolen. The port closed Jan. 31 last year at the start of a four-month war between troops and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, which controlled the harbour area. The Lebanese army deployed there last December in a campaign to extend government control over greater Beirut and end militia rule. Troops Monday took over four illegal militia-run ports which were a major source of income for the private armies. The four ports in the Dora, Dbayeh, Ouzai and Khaldieh districts were operated by the LF, the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal militia until December.

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U.S. finds no evidence of Jordanian arms supply to Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said on Friday an investigation had not turned up any evidence to substantiate reports that Jordan had shipped arms or ammunition to Iraq before or during the Gulf war.

Reports from Kuwait and Iraq during the war quoted U.S. officers and soldiers as having found the war quoted U.S. officers and soldiers as having found packing cases and shipping papers "proving" that Jordan has defied the United Nations embargo against Iraq by sending it weapons.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the investigation had found nothing to contradict Jordan's explanation that it had not sent Baghdad any weapons since the mid-1980s when it had supported Iraq in its war with Iran.

"We have found nothing whatsoever to date that confirms the official or unofficial shipment of Jordanian arms to Iraq after August 2, 1990," he said.

The United States froze economic aid to Jordan during the war. Mr. Boucher said Jordanian aid was still under review.

Sudanese stage anti-U.S. protest

KHARTOUM (AP) — Hundreds of people marched Friday in Khartoum to denounce the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, home of Islam's holiest sites. The demonstration came two days before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan which is due to start Sunday. The protesters, estimated between 100 and 500 people, gathered in front of the mosque at Khartoum University after Friday prayers. They chanted slogans against the United States and its Arab allies. "Their war has ended but ours has just started," a cleric told the crowd.

Tunisia to send pilgrims to Mecca

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has decided to take part in the annual pilgrimage to Mecca now the Gulf war is over, officials said Friday. A committee headed by Ali Chebbi, secretary of state for religious affairs, met Thursday to organise the departure of Tunisian pilgrims for the Haj in June. An estimated 7,000 Tunisians make the pilgrimage each year but fewer are expected this year because of a fall in foreign exchange reserves caused by the Gulf conflict.

Dutch missiles, crew to leave Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Dutch Defence Minister Rijkman Groenendaal said Friday that Dutch-supplied Patriot missiles and crews would leave Israel soon now that the Gulf war was over. The Netherlands last month sent a battery of the U.S.-built anti-missile missiles and crews to help shield Israel from Iraqi Scuds.

IAEA awaits Iraqi response

VIENNA (AP) — Iraq has not responded to an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) request to account for the enriched uranium at one of its nuclear plants, a spokesman said. Scientists say the uranium could be fashioned into a primitive nuclear bomb.

Rioters jailed in Morocco

FEZ, Morocco (AP) — A court sentenced 22 people to prison Friday for taking part in bloody riots that swept the country during a general strike last December. Four people received 20-year terms for arson and "acts of vandalism that led to death." The sentences rank among the harshest handed down to the hundreds of people jailed in the aftermath of the disturbances.

Gorbachev warns against foreign intervention in Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV cautioned Friday that foreign powers should not intervene in the Iraqi rebellion, and reports from Iraqi opposition groups said fighting was continuing in southern and northern Iraq.

Kurdish rebels said Friday that forces loyal to President Saddam Hussein used warplanes and helicopter gunships in an effort to crush the rebellion.

Mr. Gorbachev, at the opening of talks in Moscow with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, declared: "Let the Iraqi people themselves take care of that."

Mr. Gorbachev advocated a non-interventionist approach towards Baghdad, calling for "freedom of choice for every people and for every nation."

The United States also has advised Iraq and other countries against intervening in Iraq.

President George Bush said Thursday that Iraq's reported use of combat helicopters against insurgents violates the understanding allied and Iraqi generals reached in settling a temporary ceasefire in the Gulf war.

That makes even harder the task of getting a permanent ceasefire, he said, and the U.S. troops won't pull out of southern Iraq until that can be arranged.

"I do not want to play into the hands of Iran and other countries that had suggested what we want is a permanent stationing of U.S. troops in area. I want to bring them home," Mr. Bush said. But, he added, "Security arrangements" must first be in place.

Some U.S. troops have moved back deep inside Iraq for security reasons, a senior U.S. officer said

Friday (see story below).

The U.S. State Department reported from Washington that there was heavy fighting in and around several cities in the Kurdish northern part of Iraq and that the situation in the south seesaws between Iraqi and rebel control.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iraqi rebels told it that Republican Guard artillery had damaged the golden domes over the shrines of Shiite imams Hussein and Abbas in Karbala, 80 kilometres south of Baghdad.

IRNA also reported heavy fighting in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city and the flashpoint for the unrest that has erupted.

Much of the news about unrest in Iraq has come from media in neighbouring Iran, whose leaders have called for President Saddam to step down. The rebels claim have been impossible to confirm, because no Western reporters have been able to reach the fighting in recent days.

Tehran Radio said fierce battles raged in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, and a dozen other Kurdish towns.

A rebel spokesman in London said Iraqi troops attacked Kirkuk and Duhok with helicopter gunships, killing 11 people in Duhok and wounding 92.

The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), which is based in Tehran, said it had a video of fighting in the southern city of Karbala Tuesday, showing guerrillas setting army tanks on fire.

Refugees arriving at Safwan, in U.S.-held southern Iraq, on their way to Kuwait said three-quarters of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, was controlled by the army

after being totally in rebel hands at the start of the uprising two weeks ago.

"Except for areas where the heavy machinery of the army cannot reach, the city is totally in control of the army," one refugee said at the dusty border post. The situation was very confusing, he said. "You cannot tell who is who."

An Iraq-based Iranian dissident group said Iran had sent Revolutionary Guards 60 kilometres into Iraq to attack its bases northeast of Baghdad. The Mujahideen-e-Khalq said in London it repelled the thrust on Thursday after four days fighting.

Rebel spokesmen said the Mujahideen were helping Baghdad against the revolt.

Tehran has said it has no role in the revolt. More than half the Iraqis are Shi'ites, like the majority of Iranians.

At Tehran's mass Friday prayer, senior cleric Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili repeated Iran's call to President Saddam to "step down from power and prevent further fratricide."

Leaders of the Kurdish rebellion said in letter to French President Francois Mitterrand that Kurds dream of having their own state, but would settle for a federal Iraq state. Most of the region's countries oppose any change in existing borders.

The letter, released by the Paris Kurdish Institute, was signed by Massoud Barzani, president of the United Front of Iraqi Kurdistan and leaders of the five other parties in the umbrella group. "An Iraqi state reorganised on the basis of democratic and federal principles is a realistic

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WALK FOR IRAQIS: A scene from a fund-raising walk staged Friday to help victims of war in Iraq. Her Royal Highness Prince Alia Bint Al Hussein led the event (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

U.S. troops reoccupy positions inside Iraq

RIYADH (Agencies) — Some U.S. troops moved back to positions they'd left deep inside Iraq, but not as a signal for Iraq to sign a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf war, a senior U.S. officer said Friday.

"There are other ways to send signals," said Marine Brigadier General Richard Neal, deputy director of operations for the U.S. central command.

The Los Angeles Times reported Friday that the troops were retaking positions to pressure Iraq into signing a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf war. But Gen. Neal said the troops Wednesday simply returned to positions they should not have abandoned in the first place.

Commanding officers of the 101st and 1st air cavalry units, taking what Gen. Neal called "a loose interpretation" of orders from U.S. commander Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, had withdrawn ground forces from their most northern positions after the ceasefire was declared Feb. 28.

The officers thought they could cover the area well enough by helicopter reconnaissance. Gen. Neal said in an interview. But when the general learned what they had done, he ordered the troops back.

"He said 'no, I want you on the ground up there, not covering it by flying over it periodically,'" Gen. Neal said. He said Gen.

Schwarzkopf "wanted them at those positions that they were at prior to the cessation of hostilities."

The Times Friday reported that elements of the two army divisions had moved back to their most advanced positions near the Euphrates River valley. The newspaper quoted Gen. Neal as saying the purpose of the move was "to maintain a presence until the ceasefire is signed."

But the reoccupation of the old positions was not intended as a signal to pressure Iraq to quickly sign the ceasefire, Gen. Neal said in a brief interview with the Associated Press Friday. The move "had nothing to do with that," he said.

Although fighting has stopped, Iraq has yet to meet all the United Nations requirements "under which a permanent peace would take effect, the U.S. says. "I think it makes common sense that we are not going to walk away from a situation having accomplished what we have accomplished and let it be reversed," the Times quoted Bob Hall, a U.S. Defence Department spokesman, as saying.

The Times also said the troop movement may be a warning to Iraq on its attempts to quell revolts flaring in the country.

The Pentagon's senior general

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King, Bush should meet soon on peace, Crown Prince says

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush and His Majesty King Hussein should meet soon to discuss a Middle East peace settlement, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday.

Prince Hassan was asked on the Cable News Network (CNN) if Bush and the King would meet. "I would expect so, but when that will be I'm not entirely sure. But it has to take place in the near future."

He said that the United States and Jordan "can't continue with sign language, after all, the window of opportunity for peace in this area can't be more than a year."

Prince Hassan said Jordan clearly favoured an international settlement involving Israel and would not want to negotiate peace with the Jewish state directly.

He also reiterated Jordan's

position that any settlement would have to be worked out with full participation of the Palestinians.

Following are some of the questions and answers from the interview, conducted by Larry King of CNN:

King: What is your reaction to the fact that Secretary of State James Baker did not include Jordan during his recent Middle East trip?

Prince Hassan: I believe that the meeting of the group of eight in Damascus was basically a consolidation of the political thinking of the Gulf countries and Syria and Egypt in the context of a search for security, conflict resolution, and economic integration. And although Secretary Baker has not come on this tour.

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Baker, Bessmertnykh signal similar views on Gulf, Mideast

MOSCOW (agencies) — The Soviet and American foreign ministers Friday indicated they had similar views on ways to establish security in the Gulf and move on to an overall settlement of the Middle East problem.

Moscow's Alexander Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told reporters common ground on the linked issues was established during talks in Moscow Thursday.

"I found that we have the same kind of analytical ideas that after the Gulf crisis, the prospects for a Middle East settlement are becoming more promising," Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters before a second meeting with Mr. Baker.

"I think there is a fair degree of convergence of views on the issue," declared the secretary of state, who flew to Moscow after an eight-day tour of the 'Middle East aimed at laying the ground for an overall settlement in the region.

A spokesman for President Mikhail Gorbachev said the Gulf and the aftermath of the war in which a U.S.-led coalition forced Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait last month would be the top item when the Kremlin chief met Mr. Baker later.

Moscow backed U.S. efforts through the United Nations to achieve a pull-out by Baghdad, a long-time Soviet ally, before the conflict but aroused suspicion in Washington by last-minute efforts to stop a coalition ground offensive.

The United States, which long sought to keep the Soviet Union out of Middle East diplomacy, was promised the Kremlin a post-war role in the Middle East peace process, but has not defined what it wants that role to be.

Some Soviet military officers have voiced concern about the potential growth of American influence in the region following the victory of the U.S.-led international coalition against Iraq.

Mr. Gorbachev supported the United Nations resolutions demanding that Iraq, a former Soviet ally, give up Kuwait. But the Soviet Union declined to contribute troops or arms to the international coalition, and appears eager to patch up its relations with the Muslim World.

At the end of January, two weeks after the start of the allied air war against Iraq, Mr. Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh said in a joint statement they were confident the two superpowers could "make a substantial contribution to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East."

Mr. Baker, who arrived in Moscow Thursday, is wrapping up a 10-day trip.

U.S., Arab and Israeli officials say there is a new window of opportunity for peace in the region after the end of the Gulf war.

U.S. officials who say Moscow gave them crucial diplomatic support in assembling the anti-Iraq coalition before the war are hoping to get similar cooperation now.

Early signs are that they will. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said: "There are more moments on which our positions coincide than there are moments on which our positions do not coincide."

He indicated flexibility of Moscow's past insistence on a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East.

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Arafat: Jerusalem should be Palestine's capital

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Friday as saying that a solution to the Palestinian question would come when Palestinian flags fly over Jerusalem.

Algeria's official APS news agency quoted Mr. Arafat as saying that the "only solution" to the Palestinian question "is that the Palestinian emblem be mounted on the rooftops, minarets and belltowers" of Jerusalem, "the capital of the independent state of Palestine."

In Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered, a high-ranking official said the organisation wants a high-level meeting with France to help "translate" the positive French position into acts.

"Such an encounter has become necessary in order to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East," said Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Mr. Abed Rabbo was quoted by the French News Agency,

Agency France-Presse, as saying that the "positive" French position was reflected in talks Thursday by President Francois Mitterrand and U.S. President George Bush (see page 2).

Mr. Mitterrand reaffirmed France's interest in seeing a Palestinian state and refused to discredit Mr. Arafat or the PLO as representatives of the Palestinian people. "Bush said a Palestinian state 'is not the answer' and affirmed that the United States would not resume its dialogue with the PLO, which 'bet on the wrong horse' — Iraq — in the Gulf crisis."

In the APS interview, Mr. Arafat repeated denials of recent reports that the organisation was prepared to make territorial concessions in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for a Palestinian state.

British news organisations quoted top Arafat aide, Bassam Abu Sharif, as saying such concessions could be in order. Abu Sharif and others have said it was a misinterpretation.

Mr. Arafat said any departure from decisions made by the Palestine National Council would be tantamount to treason.

Mr. Arafat, according to APS, also asked President Bush to "apply international law in Palestine as he did in the Gulf. The ball is now in the camp of the American administration."

Mr. Arafat has vowed to remain chairman of the PLO and said he and the PLO are "more popular than ever" despite their support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

In an interview with the New York Times published on Friday, Mr. Arafat also reiterated that there could be no Middle East peace without Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the establishment of a Palestinian homeland there.

Mr. Arafat denied there was widespread unhappiness within and outside the PLO over his stance on the war, and with the quality of his leadership, the Times reported.

"Among our people we are at a

peak," Mr. Arafat said. "With the Arab masses, at a peak; with the Muslim Nation, we're at a peak, and throughout the Third World."

He said in the Tunis interview Thursday that he would not step aside as leader of the PLO unless the majority of Palestinians wanted him to.

"I have many cards to play, he said. "And my trump card is my best — my people's support. As long as I have 50 per cent plus one, I am not leaving."

Mr. Arafat defended his alignment with Iraq, saying: "I follow my people. It's impossible to be a democrat and not follow the direction of the people. Some people found excuses for (Jordan) because (it) has Palestinians in (the) country, O.K., I have all of the Palestinians."

The Times said Mr. Arafat declined to condemn an attack by a PLO group on an Israeli beach last year, a refusal that led the

(Continued on page 4)

Bush, Mitterrand reach no common position on Mideast

LE FRANCOIS, Martinique (R) — U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand agreed on Thursday that the time is ripe for Arab-Israeli peace but reached no common position on how to achieve it.

At the end of a relaxed afternoon working luncheon, Mr. Bush and Mr. Mitterrand declared their talks extremely productive but left with some of the same old positions keeping them from presenting a unified front.

"We simply have not settled one path, one single approach to try to solve this Palestine-Israeli question. It is very important that it... be resolved," Mr. Bush said at a joint news conference with Mitterrand.

The French president said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was still the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and he believed an international conference would be a good way to resolve the problem.

But Mr. Bush said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was discredited by his support of Iraq in the Gulf war and that other, "more moderate" Palestinians might be more willing to make the kind of

concessions needed to prod the peace process along.

"We'll pursue that track for a while and just see how the healing process goes," Mr. Bush said.

The U.S. president, on his first foreign trip since the war, said he opposed for the time being an international conference but did not outright reject Mr. Mitterrand's idea for a summit of U.N. Security Council nations to consider the Middle East question.

"I think he and I both agree that if we embrace a common position, we want to feel that it will bear results. So that idea is out there," Mr. Bush said.

"There was no request on his part when such a meeting might be most timely. But we saw many meetings of the Security Council during the Gulf war, and I think the world would agree that those meetings were very productive," Mr. Bush added.

The two leaders also disagreed on whether a Palestinian state should be established. Mr. Bush said he opposed such a state, while Mr. Mitterrand pointed out that U.N. resolutions which created Israel called for two states and noted, "It's dangerous to refuse a people any form of identity."

Both men had entered the talks on the bumpy French island in the Caribbean headed by the success of the Gulf war, saying it offered the best chance in years for finally resolving the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

They ate lunch under a thatched-roof gazebo at a hilltop plantation which produces sugar cane for some of the potent rum distilled here. Having put on casual clothes for their talks — Mr. Mitterrand wore a safari suit — they switched back to business suits for their news conference.

Despite their differences, Mr. Mitterrand had high praise for the mission of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the Middle East, saying it was laying the groundwork for future efforts.

And Mr. Mitterrand did not reject the idea of Palestinians other than those in the PLO entering the peace process, noting that "there are other forces and I think they should let themselves be known."

Both were insistent that the Gulf war has provided a valuable opportunity to tackle the problem and that the chance should not be wasted.

Firefighting equipment begins to arrive in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A C-5A Galaxy airlifted 66.5 tonnes of oil well firefighting equipment to Kuwait Friday.

"We should be able to start working on the simpler fires by the middle or the later part of next week," said Larry Flack, fire chief for the Kuwait Oil Company.

More than 500 fires are burning in the oilfields of Kuwait, darkening the skies and filling the air with health-damaging pollution.

The Galaxy flew via Germany from Travis Air Force Base in Texas, home state of most of the 500 firefighters.

"This is phase two of the liberation of Kuwait," said Minister of Planning Sulaiman Mutawa, who was at the airport to greet a plane load of American dignitaries.

"This is the first of 15 for 16 Galaxy loads that will be brought in," he said.

He said the first priority of the Kuwaiti government was to set up camps to house the firefighters.

"All the accommodations in Kuwait were destroyed by the Iraqis. After 12 hours of work these men will need a place to take the grease off their bodies and take food," he said.

Tackling the bigger fires will have to await the arrival of all the equipment and the laying of a pipeline to carry seawater into the desert, Mr. Flack said.

The water will be used not to douse the flames but to cool the asbestos-clad men and equipment as they try to get close enough to each fire to put capping equipment on the wellhead.

At some wells, new shafts will be drilled from the side to reduce the pressure of oil feeding the flames above.

The whole operation could take two years, firefighters have said.

The first load of equipment was part of a rig owned by the Texas Boots and Coots Firefighting Company, whose logo declares them to be specialists in "snubbing, hot tapping and freeze jobs."

"The fires have to be put out soon because of the damage being done," Mr. Mutawa said.

"If this continues for long, God knows if we will ever be able to produce two million barrels a day like we used to."

He later greeted a party of American politicians led by Commerce Secretary Robert M. Babbler who arrived on a Boeing 747 and were taken on a three-hour tour of the oilfields.

Fourteen members of the House of Representatives and former officials including ex-Secretary of State Alexander Haig and former Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, were along for the tour.

Emir's arrival highlights Kuwaitis' on future worries

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — From ad hoc grocery stores manned by toughs with automatic weapons, to dusty bakeries near mountains of garbage, to blacked-out government offices, Kuwaitis greeted the return of their ruler with a disappointed sign.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah flew into Kuwait international airport shortly before 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) Thursday. At about the same time, Ghada Al Mansour, a 29-year-old mother of three, was moving towards the head of a bread line in the Ardiya district, a middle-class suburb of Kuwait City.

"In my house we have 12 mouths to feed," she said. "Now we have enough food, but where is the electricity? Where is the water?"

"The future of Kuwait is very dim," Adnan Fahed, a 32-year-old supervisor of a food distribution centre, said as hundreds of Kuwaitis lined up for food behind him. "What we need is good management and leadership. We have neither."

Two lines — one for men, and one for women — snaked from the centre, a dark, dank one-story concrete building in the Qadisiya section of town. Armed men in robes stood by the doorway.

From the centre, Kuwaitis, Palestinians, Egyptians and other nationalities emerged with the handout — one frozen chicken, a bag of onions, two cabbages and a small plastic bag of green peppers.

No one is starving in Kuwait. But for the people of this oil-rich land, accustomed to prosperity and a government that provides the first two weeks of freedom have been difficult.

About 5,000 Kuwaitis welcomed the emir, lining the highway to his temporary abode with fancy automobiles, waving Kuwaiti flags and honking their horns.

On the Arabian Gulf road that runs along the coast, cars, trucks, jeeps and vans packed the swank roadway. At one intersection some Kuwaiti men practised

break-dance steps they said they had almost forgotten during the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

"Of course, we're glad the emir is back," said Ahmad Al Shalbi, an engineer with Kuwait Oil Company as he sat behind the wheel of a lime green Porsche on the boulevard watching the men twist and jerk. "Now maybe he will hear our complaints."

The emir returns to a society facing divisions between those who suffered through the occupation and those who are returning and attempting to reassert the power they held before Iraqi tanks scared them from Kuwait.

One of the key complaints heard throughout city is that the returning officials aren't listening to those who stayed behind — making the task of reconstruction much harder than it should be.

"We know who needs food, we know who collaborated, we know where the generators should go, we know who needs water, but have they asked us? No," said Michael Kano, a 32-year-old American banker who lived in Kuwait throughout the occupation.

"We're waiting to help the government. We could take trucks to Saudi Arabia to get food, whatever, but they just ignore us," he said.

Government officials purchased 17,000 gas cylinders for cooking but did not realise that the knobs would not fit Kuwaiti stoves. They also brought in 750 115 volt generators, apparently not realising that Kuwait runs on 240 volts.

Tons of food have rotted because officials did not know that there were no pick-up trucks or forklifts left in the city, something, said those who stayed behind, easily known if the government had asked.

"What has the government been doing for seven months?" asked Fahed. As he walked past a line of men, an elderly gentleman reached out his hand.

"When will tea come?" he asked. "God willing, today," came the reply.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mufti relays peace proposals to Pope

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A representative of Jerusalem's highest Muslim clergyman Thursday said he gave Pope John Paul II "concrete proposals" for Middle East peace. The Pope received in an audience at the Vatican a Christian-Muslim delegation from Jerusalem, led by Patriarch Michel Sabbah and including the envoy for Mufti Sheikh Saadeddin Al Alami, who is the highest Muslim clergyman in the Israeli-occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem. Meeting with reporters after the audience, the envoy, Thibab Ayyoush, declined to reveal the proposals, which he said included the Palestinian issue, saying it was up to the Pope to make them public if he wants to. He said they didn't constitute a peace plan but rather were "some concrete proposals" by leading Muslim authorities. He didn't identify the authorities.

Assad meets Saudi military commander

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad discussed military cooperation with Saudi Arabia Friday at a meeting with Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, commander of the joint Arab force to which Syria sent 20,000 men for the Gulf war. Syria has also agreed to contribute troops to post-war security arrangements in the Gulf. Officials and diplomats said the meeting, attended by Major-General Hikmat Shehawi, Syria's chief of staff, also covered developments in the Gulf. Prince Khaled arrived in Damascus from Cairo Thursday. He also had talks with Syria's defence minister, Major-General Mustafa Tlas.

\$650m U.S. war aid for Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Senate committee has voted to provide 200 million in emergency aid for Turkey to help it meet some of the costs it incurred during the Gulf war. The Senate Appropriations Committee included the economic aid in a \$5.9 billion-dollar bill that also provides \$650 million for Israel to help it meet war costs. The so-called dire emergency bill, which adds to spending in the current fiscal year, is expected to go before the full Senate next week. Turkey played a vital role in shutting off Iraqi oil exports in line with United Nations economic sanctions by closing an Iraqi oil pipeline through its territory. It also allowed U.S. aircraft to use a Turkish base during the war.

U.S. sergeant dies in Dubai hotel

RIYADH (R) — A U.S. air force sergeant who took part in the Gulf war has died in a fall at a Dubai hotel, the U.S. military said Friday. U.S. central command said the sergeant was "fatally injured in a fall at a hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at approximately 3 a.m. GMT (7 a.m. local time) March 13. The cause of death is under joint investigation by the United States air force and Dubai police department." The statement gave no details about the fall and said the sergeant's name was being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

3 missing in ship collision off Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Three men were missing Friday after a ship sank following an overnight collision with a tanker in rough seas 30 miles off Cyprus, police said. They said the Syrian-flagged, 750-tonne freighter Naval sank rapidly after colliding with the 24,821 tonne, Maltese-flagged tanker Bayonne. It was not clear whether the tanker was laden although it was not badly damaged. Five men from the Naval were rescued and taken aboard the Bayonne. Police said ships and helicopters were searching for the three missing men, whose nationalities were not immediately available.

Arab news agencies seek release of hostages

LONDON (AP) — The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) formed a committee Thursday to work for the release of journalists Terry Anderson and John McCarthy, who are held hostage in Lebanon. Farid Ayar, director general of FANA, said the committee planned to go to Beirut soon "to contact persons and groups whom we hope will be helpful to obtaining the release of Terry and John." Mr. Ayar said he would be on the committee along with representatives from the Syrian Arab News Agency, the Moroccan news Agency MAP, and the Kuwait News Agency. Mr. Ayar said he also would ask the Islamic Republic News Agency of Iran to join although it is not a member of FANA. FANA has issued appeals in the past seeking the release of journalists held in Lebanon. Mr. Ayar said FANA felt it was time for a fresh initiative that would include some of its senior representatives going to Lebanon.

Drought could pose problems for Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Drought-hit Cyprus is considering importing drinking water, possibly in giant plastic bags towed across the Mediterranean. A government official said Friday the third worst drought of the century was forcing authorities to look to Syria, Greece or Egypt for supplies. Water restrictions have been in force for three months — normally the wettest time of the year — throughout the holiday island. Reservoirs are dangerously low after 53 per cent of normal rainfall between October and February. The start of the dry season is only weeks away and the expected return of more than one million tourists after the Gulf war could add to the problems.

Hong Kong lifts freeze on Kuwaiti assets

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong has lifted all restrictions imposed on Kuwaiti assets, effective immediately, a government spokesman said Friday. The freeze on Iraqi assets remains in place. The British colony, through an order from London, imposed the restrictions on Aug. 7, five days after Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait. Financial sources described Kuwaiti investments in Hong Kong as not substantial. The Kuwait Investment Office, the emirate's main investment arm, owns about 33 per cent of a medium-sized Hong Kong bank, Dao Heng Holdings Ltd, and about 34 per cent of brokerage house Sassoon Holdings Ltd. Some analysts estimate Kuwaiti deposits in Hong Kong range from 1.5 billion to two billion Hong Kong (\$190 million to 256 million).

Algerian telethon nets sum for Iraq

ALGIERS (R) — Nearly \$5 million towards the reconstruction of war-battered Baghdad was raised during a fund raising phone-in on Algerian television. Organisers said over 79 million dinars (\$4.64 million) had been donated by viewers. Contributions ranged from one dinar to 100,000. Algerian public opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

After war, Japan wants better relations with Israel

TOKYO (R) — With the Gulf war over, Japan wants better relations with Israel but does not wish to upset its excellent ties with Arab states or endanger access to Arab oil, diplomats said Friday.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama announced Wednesday he wanted to go to Israel, which would be the first such visit since June 1988.

"Nakayama is very keen to go, an indication of how seriously we need to promote dialogue with Israel," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe told a news conference Tuesday.

"Japan is re-evaluating its policy," Israeli Ambassador Nahum Eshkol said Thursday in an interview at his embassy, surrounded by police around the clock.

"If they want to play an international role, they will have to cultivate working relations with all countries in the region. Otherwise, they will be looked upon as partisan and acting out of very, very limited self-interest," he said.

Until now Japan's policy in the Middle East has been dominated by the need to secure oil, as Tokyo relies on the region for about 70 per cent of its imports. That has meant strong support for the Palestinians.

"Mr. Eshkol said the oil issue had lost much of its importance in the past few years, with price and supply little affected by both the Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war.

"Japan is shifting in terms of maintaining close economic, political and other contacts with all countries without being fearful that maintaining good relations with Israel will harm their interests in the Arab World," he said.

A second Japanese Foreign Ministry official said a rapid growth in trade and a visit to Israel last month by Hisashi Owada, a deputy foreign minister, were signs of Japan's improving relations with Israel.

During his visit, Mr. Owada took a taste of war when he had to take refuge in sealed rooms during attacks by Iraqi missiles.

"We intend to strengthen our dialogue with Israel and make concrete aid proposals for Palestinians in occupied territories. We have been doing it (until now) but we're going to double our efforts," the second official said.

But one Arab diplomat said Tokyo would not act on its own. "Tokyo's foreign policy was dominated by economic interests. Japanese are businessmen, not politicians. They have no ability to solve Middle East problems. Japan will wait for the Arabs before taking an initiative with Israel," he said.

During the war, Israel's embassy in Tokyo was swamped with letters and telephone calls of sympathy and donations from private citizens and companies totalling 33 million yen (\$240,000). Japanese leaders sympathised with the Israelis, and appreciated

the government's self-restraint in not retaliating against Iraq, but these warm expressions did not translate into aid for the Jewish state.

The Foreign Ministry says Israel is ineligible for aid because of the relatively high per capita income of its people, and in any event it receives much assistance from elsewhere.

The behaviour of Japanese banks and businesses during the war left a bitter memory in Israel. Many suspended business with the Jewish state, in part because of a two-week cut in postal services.

Mr. Eshkol said the Japanese Bankers Association (JBA) recommended that its members stop banking activities with Israel, bringing nearly all commercial transactions to a halt.

"Even after the JBA rescinded the recommendation, a great number of banks continued this ill-advised policy... refusing to honour even letters of credit confirmed by European banks."

"This went far beyond business prudence... and was a very serious breach of normal commercial behaviour," he said.

The JBA denied issuing such a recommendation.

Mr. Eshkol said many Japanese manufacturers and trading firms observed the Arab boycott of the Jewish state, refusing to trade with Israel for fear of an Arab backlash, and were showing no signs of changing.

He later greeted a party of American politicians led by Commerce Secretary Robert M. Babbler who arrived on a Boeing 747 and were taken on a three-hour tour of the oilfields.

Fourteen members of the House of Representatives and former officials including ex-Secretary of State Alexander Haig and former Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, were along for the tour.

EC assembly calls for arms curbs in Mideast

STASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament called on Middle Eastern Nations Thursday to eliminate all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons from the region.

In a resolution passed by a vote of 143 to 29 with 14 abstentions, the parliament said such a step by all Arab nations and Israel would help "rule out in the future the threat of weapons of mass destruction" in the tense region.

The parliament also called on the EC executive commission to draft a report on European Community-based companies that may have violated the trade embargo imposed on Iraq last August by the United Nations.

During a debate, members of the EC's 518-seat assembly said they suspected several companies of supplying Iraq with a variety of goods that helped it resist the embargo.

The parliament, in its first plenary meeting since the Gulf war ended, also welcomed the liberation of Kuwait and welcomed a pledge by the 12 EC nations to help build peace and stability in the post-war Middle East.

Some members of the parliament's right-centre parties opposed the resolution as a dull document that offered no new ideas and failed to express gratitude to the United States and other countries that fought the war.

"This is a totally inept text," said Simone Eveil, a French member of the parliament's conservative liberal party, told her colleagues. "We are making fools of ourselves."

Amendments expressing thanks to the coalition troops and proposing new limits on arms sales to the Middle East were defeated.

The adopted resolution said allied forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq should be replaced "as soon as possible" by an Arab peace-keeping force under United Nations command.

It also expressed "concern at the climate of civil war" that has arisen in Iraq.

Further, it demanded that the restored Kuwaiti government "respect the full rights and interests" of Kuwait's Palestinian residents, who have been targets of violence because their leaders supported Iraq.

Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

secretary-general's note.

It stemmed from a unanimous Security Council resolution last Dec. 20 asking the secretary-general to make urgent new efforts to monitor and observe the situation of Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

One paragraph of the resolution urged the parties to the convention to ensure respect for it by Israel.

Another asked the secretary-general to "develop further" a suggestion he made in an Oct. 31 report that the parties to the convention might meet to discuss how to ensure protection for the Palestinians.

No such meeting of countries bound by the convention has previously been held.

Glaspie to present her version of Saddam talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a lengthy silence, Ambassador April Glaspie is expected to rebut allegations that she unwittingly signalled Saddam Hussein last summer that the United States would not contest an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

U.S. officials said Ms. Glaspie views an Iraqi transcript of her July 25 conversation with President Saddam Hussein as "selective and incomplete." According to the transcript, Ms. Glaspie, who was then ambassador to Iraq, told President Saddam that the United States had "no opinion on inter-Arab disputes, such as your border disagreement with Kuwait."

Seizing on that comment, Senator Patrick Leahy said Ms. Glaspie, on instructions from the State Department, "virtually gave a green light to Saddam Hussein" for the invasion.

"A week after she spoke to President Saddam, Glaspie flew to London. Shortly thereafter, the Iraqis released the account of President Saddam's conversation with Ms. Glaspie.

The U.S. officials, asking not to be identified, said Ms. Glaspie plans to break her silence in the coming days. They said she will disclose that she warned President Saddam on July 25 that the United States strongly opposed the use of force as a means of resolving conflicts.

It is not known what forum she will use to give her side of the story.

Ms. Glaspie, 48, has not spoken publicly about the events leading up to the invasion of Kuwait. Some Democrats have suggested that a firmer stand by Ms. Glaspie in her conversation with President Saddam might

have averted a full-blown crisis in the Gulf.

Secretary of State James Baker has said it is "judicious to suggest that somehow Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait because we led him to invade Kuwait."

Ms. Glaspie, a specialist in Arab affairs, is one of a handful of women in the diplomatic service who have won ambassadorial appointments.

Acquaintances of Ms. Glaspie have expressed frustration over her unwillingness to confront the allegations against her head on. "Everybody wants to come out in her defence but she won't let anybody," said one acquaintance. Her silence has left many mystified.

Some of her colleagues are angry with Baker and his aides for not doing more to spare Ms. Glaspie ridicule.

"It's a shame the administration didn't stand up more for her," one official said.

Since war ended two weeks ago, there has been a greater willingness among Democrats to examine the roots of the crisis. Democrats, under fire from Republicans for opposing President George Bush's request for authority last January to go to war, are raising questions about whether the crisis could have been averted last summer.

As for Ms. Glaspie, she has been quietly working at the department since last August on the Gulf crisis, providing advice on such issues as public diplomacy and Arab sentiment towards the conflict. After departing Iraq on Aug. 1, she never returned. Officials said the administration has given her the green light to go public whenever she chooses.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES	
04:37	Fajr
05:54	Sunrise (Duba)
11:45	Dhuhr
15:08	Asr
17:46	Maghrib
19:03	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Some clouds appear at different altitudes gradual rise in temperatures will take place. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	7 / 20
Aqaba	14 / 24
Deserts	5 / 22

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar	614222
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawwa	730356
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer	701405
Dr. Salah Al'Usoud	649028
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shumciani pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Ta'ani	(-)
Al Shama pharmacy	(278225)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Jihad Mishal	(-)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints:	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints:	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/52
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn	644216
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shumciani	664171/4
Shumciani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musabir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Abli, Abdali	664164/6
Indian, Al-Mulajra	777101/3
Al-Badli, J. Ashrafiah	775111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275355
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beans	800 / 700
Cabbage	100 / 60
Carrot	220 / 180
Cauliflower	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	250 / 150
Cucumbers (small)	380 / 320
Dates	300 / 400
Eggplant	280 / 180
Garlic	950 / 800
Grapefruit	250 / 200
Lemon	300 / 250
Lettuce (per one)	100/50
Marrow (large)	200 / 150
Marrow (small)	330 / 300
Onion (dry)	280 / 220
Onion (green)	160 / 120
Orange	600 / 500
Pepper (hot)	600 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	280 / 220
Potato	250 / 220
Radish	120 / 80
Sage	400 / 300
Spinach	120 / 80
Tomatoes	380 / 280

Market prices

كنا من اللحم

Iran reopens mission today

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iranian flag goes up in Amman Saturday after a 10-year break with the reopening of the Islamic republic's embassy here following the resumption of diplomatic relations in January.

The mission, headed by Charge d'Affaires Hussein Nari Ghani, will begin formal functions, including the issuance of visas, with immediate effect, embassy Counselor Majid Dashtestani said. He said the visa procedures would be relatively easy.

Until now Jordanians had to obtain Iranian visas from the Islamic republic's mission in Damascus, Syria and the reopening of the Amman embassy is expected to increase visits to Iran by Jordanian businessmen.

The embassy will be temporarily located off Wadi Saqra Street, in the vicinity of the Chinese diplomatic mission, pending refurbishing of the old, Iranian-owned building between third and fourth circles, Mr. Dashtestani told the Jordan Times.

Moves are under way to reopen the Jordanian mission in the Iranian capital. Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Al Dahar arrived in Tehran two weeks ago.

Jordan and Iran have not yet named their respective ambassadors.

Mr. Dashtestani said two other Iranian diplomats are expected to join the mission in Amman soon.

"Our first priority is to pave the way for strengthened relations through exchange of visits by Iranians and Jordanians," the counselor said. "There is a lot of scope for trade and economic relations between the two coun-

tries," he added.

Jordan imported Iranian goods worth about JD 2.4 million and sold products worth JD 1.1 million during 1990.

Following the resumption of relations, the Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) concluded a deal to export phosphates and related products worth \$66 million to Iran in 1991.

A Jordanian trade delegation is expected to leave for Tehran soon for talks with Iranian public and private sectors on possibilities of imports and exports.

Mr. Dashtestani confirmed that Iran would respond positively to any Jordanian approach to import oil and also held out the possibility of Iranian financial assistance to the Kingdom. But he declined to elaborate.

"There are many possibilities and all options are open to both sides," he said. "We have just reformed our relations and there is every possibility of cooperation in all spheres based on mutual respect and Islamic principles."

Jordanian-Iranian relations were strained with the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 with Amman supporting Iraq. Diplomatic ties were severed in early 1981 and following the end of the war with a ceasefire in August 1988 and Iraqi-Iranian agreement to make peace in August 1990, Amman and Tehran agreed to resume relations in January 1991.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi visited Tehran in early February and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati is expected to return the visit soon.

Visits by other Iranian and Jordanian officials are also in the pipeline.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday tours a GUVS centre for special education at Sahab (Petra photo)

'Only 5,000 people with some training are presently providing rehabilitation services to 300,000 handicapped'

Queen inaugurates special education centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein has inaugurated a special education centre set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) at Sahab, south east of here.

The Queen toured the centre and was briefed by GUVS officials on the services offered to the handicapped children and guidance to their parents on means of contributing to the process of rehabilitation.

Accompanied by officials from GUVS, the minister of social development and director general of the Noor Al Hussein foundation Inaam Al Mufri, the Queen watched the handicapped children at training and took part in the plantation of an olive tree in the grounds of the newly built centre.

GUVS Executive President

Abdullah Al Khatib told the Queen that the new centre was part of the ongoing efforts to help Jordan deal with disabled children.

"Jordan is estimated to have 300,000 cases of disabilities of various types requiring services estimated at JD 60 million a year," Dr. Al Khatib said.

He said that only 5,000 people with some training are available at present to provide rehabilitation services to the children, and GUVS was spending JD 2 million to cope with the problem.

The Sahab centre is the ninth such centre to be opened in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, but GUVS runs 56 other centres on its own "to help meet the growing needs of rehabilitation services for the

handicapped children in Jordan," according to Dr. Khatib.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Mrs. Hind Maraqa, president of the Mental Health Society in Jordan, who also supervises six of these centres, said that the Sahab centre can take up to 50 slightly mentally retarded children aged between six and 12.

Ali Abu Hamad, who represented the Sahab municipality at the inauguration ceremony, said that the municipality offered a four-dunum plot of land for the construction of the centre.

The centre has classrooms for the handicapped children and other essential units for the rehabilitation process.

The Queen last year laid the foundation stone for the new centre.

PLO ready for peace talks based on U.N. resolutions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is ready for peace talks with Israel, the United States and the United Nations as soon as U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, said PLO Minister of Information Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"What is important for us is for the United States and Israel to be willing to accept the application of the Security Council resolutions and the concept of international legality supervising the application of the resolutions concerning our cause as they have done in connection with the Gulf crisis," Mr. Abed Rabbo told the Jordan Times.

The PLO spokesman said that the PLO had for long been willing to sit down at the negotiating table in a wider framework and as part of an Arab delegation. "We asked for a united Arab delegation, but this was rejected by the United States and Israel, they want a united Arab delegation, but without the PLO."

The PLO's main objective now, he said, was to "work together with other Arab countries and international forces in order to apply the international legality to make Israel withdraw completely from the occupied Palestinian territories and to have peace and security in this region."

Mr. Abed Rabbo said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship had grown closer over the last several years. "Since 1988 we began a new stage in our relationship with Jordan which is based on the Jordanian recognition of the Palestinian state, the role of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and, on our side, respect of Jordanian sovereignty as a brotherly country."

Speculations that the PLO would have to change its leadership in any talks with the United States or even other Arab countries were dismissed by Mr. Abed Rabbo. "Even if there will be changes, these changes will be on a democratic basis and through the institutions of the PLO; we are not afraid of criticism, we are not afraid of changes through democratic means."

He said that Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with a Palestinian delegation that was approved by the PLO just proved that the PLO is a decisive factor in any talks that anyone wants to have with the Palestinians.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said that Secretary of State James Baker failed to mention what President George Bush clearly spelled out as an acceptable framework for a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, namely resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the concept of land for peace.

"When Secretary of State James Baker came to the region he talked of something different... the mechanism he is suggesting has nothing to do with these resolutions. He is talking about solving the conflict between Arab states and Israel and putting under shadow the basic issue — that is the Palestinian question. He is no more suggesting direct negotiations between a Palestinian delegation and Israel, he is no more suggesting the framework for this talks and he is no more suggesting a role for the Security Council which played a major role concerning the Gulf."

Mr. Abed Rabbo said. He said that a framework was not being introduced to bring about a concrete application of the resolutions; "they are talking about resolutions but they are not introducing any mechanism, it looks as if they are avoiding once again dealing seriously with the

Palestinian question and are freezing this question as they have done before."

Mr. Abed Rabbo warned that if nothing is done to solve the Palestinian issue "new explosions will occur in the region." "The road to peace," said the PLO official, "is quite clear; we are calling for negotiations between the concerned parties: between the PLO, representing the Palestinian people, and the government of Israel... we are talking about an international umbrella for these talks and negotiations. This could be the Security Council."

"The basis of peace," he said, "would be the resolutions of the Security Council that have not been applied for more than twenty three years now, beginning with 242 which calls for the complete withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territories."

He said that differences of opinion concerning the PLO stand in the Gulf crisis should not alter the position of the PLO at the peace table. "If we have differences of opinion concerning the Gulf this does not mean we no more represent our people... We believe that the United States was not serious in trying to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis."

"Yasser Arafat," Mr. Abed Rabbo reiterated, "became the leader of the Palestinian people because this was the will of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the PLO was ready in principle to resume talks with the U.S. "We are ready (to resume talks with the United States), but it depends on the United States and I don't know what new conditions they might have... but sooner or later the U.S. will have no other way except direct talks with the Palestinians, that is through the PLO."

March raises funds for Iraq

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A march organised by the General Union of Arab Doctors, aimed at raising donations for Iraq gathered around three thousand people Friday in a show of solidarity with and support of the Iraqi people. Leading the marchers was Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein.

The march, called the march of victory, took off Friday morning from the Professional Association Complex, in Shmeisani, and ended at the Royal Automobile Club, on the eighth circle. The marchers, mostly school children, were joined by the Iraqi and Palestinian ambassadors.

"It is very encouraging to see how people responded to the march," Her Royal Highness Princess Alia said. "I hope that this unified effort continues," she added in an interview with the Jordan Times.

According to Princess Alia, proceeds from the march will be used to buy medicine, that is much needed in Iraq.

Dr. Hassan Khreis, secretary general of the General Union of Arab Doctors, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the aim of this march is "public participation, in order to collect cash and in-kind donations, to support our brothers in Iraq, and to ensure the provision of drugs and other humanitarian aid."

Two weeks before the march, the General Union of Arab Doctors distributed cards to schools, clubs and other organisations, to ensure that the collection of donations is done in an orderly manner.

As for the role of the General Union of Arab Doctors, during the crisis in Iraq, Dr. Khreis said that in addition to sending medical teams, the union has also contributed by sending convoys of medicine and other humanitarian aid to Iraq. He also stressed that the union's Arab Health Committee was in constant touch with the Iraqi medical organisations, in an effort to assess the health and medical needs of Iraq.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Friday leads a march organised by the General Union of Arab Doctors with the aim of raising aid for Iraq (photo by Youssef Al 'Alhan)

Bankers to discuss ways to promote economy, industry, trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bankers in Jordan will gather Saturday at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for a general meeting to discuss banking matters in the light of the current economic conditions in the country.

A spokesman for the CBJ said Friday that the meeting, which has been organised in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Commerce is to be attended by representatives of the commercial banks and other economic organisations in the country.

He said that the meeting was expected to deal with current efforts exerted by the government to deal with the economic developments in the Middle East region, and with their adverse effects on Jordan.

The CBJ aims at allowing the bankers and other economists to exchange views and consultations about major issues related to the national economy and means of reducing the adverse consequences.

The meeting is also designed to help bankers review their contribution towards promoting trade and industry through offering credit facilities as well as the CBJ's new policies regarding monetary affairs and plans to encourage exports.

All economic sectors in Jordan were severely hit by the Gulf crisis, and Saturday's meeting was considered as a first step towards rallying efforts for the post-war era.

Before the war at least two fifths of Jordan manufactured goods were sold to Iraq, its biggest market and many firms were exporting exclusively to the Iraqi market using CBJ finance Exports, tourism, and industry were the worst hit, according to experts, who said that the country's bad economy is being aggravated by the rising levels of unemployment.

According to CBJ officials, the

role of Jordanian banks in reactivating the national economy through further credit facilities to the exporters and industrialists will be among the main topics for Saturday's discussions.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh told the Parliament last week that all indications were that foreign aid inflows, pledged for 1991 would be received and would also allow the government to carry out projects listed in the Gulf crisis fund. Mr. Jaradneh said that this emergency fund, set up by the government, allocated JD 28 million to help find new export markets, finance, industrial and agricultural projects and boost tourism.

The fund, he said, would also be spent on widening the country's services and infrastructure to enable it to absorb some 300,000 Jordanians who fled Kuwait and other Gulf states during the Gulf crisis.

Meeting tackles drivers' training

AMMAN (J.T.) — Matters related to training drivers and cooperation between drivers' training centres in Jordan and the Traffic Department were discussed at a general meeting held Thursday evening.

Those attending were directors or owners of the centres and senior Traffic Department officials as well as Brigadier General Muayyad Al Mubaslat, assistant director general of the Public Security Department (PSD).

Cooperation to streamline the process of training and testing new drivers were reviewed at the meeting.

Brig. Mubaslat told the meeting that the Traffic Department was conducting detailed studies to find new areas for training new drivers.

The PSD, in cooperation with the Amman Municipality, has now finalised a study for the distribution of street signs within the Amman area and there are plans to assign streets in Amman to allow motorists to park their cars for limited periods of time Brig. Mubaslat said.

During the meeting, Brig. Mubaslat heard complaints and grievances by owners of drivers training centres and discussed means of overcoming them.

Several senior PSD officers, including Brigadier Awni Musmar, head of the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department were present at the meeting.

SENATE CONVENES TO DISCUSS LAWS, ENDORSE DECISIONS: The Upper House of Parliament, which convened Thursday, introduced amendments to the Armed Forces' martyrs law and returned it to the Lower House for further consideration. At the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members, the House approved several draft laws covering court procedures, the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and government appropriation of public estate.

ANNOUNCEMENT FORM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
BIDS NO. 07/91/HP, 08/91/SP, 09/91/W

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW) in Deutsche Marks towards the Water Sector Programme and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following tenders:-

No. of Tender	Supply of	Nonrefundable Performance Fee in J.D.	Security in J.D.
1) 07/91/HP	Horizontal Pumps & Spare Parts	100.—	6,000.—
2) 08/91/SP	Submersible Pumps & Spare Parts	150.—	10,000.—
3) 09/91/W	Welding Machines	75.—	3,000.—

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 06-680100, Tlx 22439 WAJ JO, FAX 679143.

A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee as mentioned in item 2 above.

All bids must be accompanied by a security as mentioned in item 2 above and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday May 7, 1991

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority



Deputies Thursday visit the 12th Royal Mechanised Division (Petra photo)

Deputies visit army unit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Several members of the Lower House of Parliament and the House's Committee for Supporting the People's Army Thursday visited the front line positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and met with its commanders and senior officers.

The visitors were briefed on the duties of the Armed Forces at the front lines, and the training offered to the People's Army.

Among the deputies was Nayef Al Hadid who delivered an address paying tribute to the efforts of the Armed Forces and the People's Army and their commanders to defend the homeland.

The visit coincided with the graduation of a new batch of recruits from the People's Army. They were employees from the

Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. The employees who took part in the several-week training courses were trained in the handling of light arms and target shooting.

Other batches from the People's Army graduated from Marka and Zarqa.

The latest public contribution to the People's Army came from the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company. Its employees donated a total of JD 6,000 to the People's Army to help it carry out its duties. The company received a letter of thanks from the Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Several companies and organisations have been donating huge sums of money in contribution to the People's Army.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Thursday exchanged views on the latest developments in the region and on the efforts being made to establish peace in the region. In a telephone conversation the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and voiced their interest in pursuing contacts to

exchange views on regional developments at this crucial stage.

Relief convoy leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — A convoy of trucks carrying 150 tonnes of drugs, medical and food supplies left for Baghdad Thursday. The convoy, organised by the Arab Emergency Health Committee (AEHC), was accompanied by a 25 women delegation

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The other side of U.N.

EVEN THOUGH more than two weeks have passed since the end of the Gulf war, the economic and military restrictions still imposed on Iraq remain incongruous with the letter and spirit of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti conflict. Economic sanctions are still applied against Iraq even though they were applied in the first place because Kuwait continued to be occupied by Iraq contrary to the council Resolution 661. Now that Kuwait has been freed and Iraqi troops fully and completely withdrawn, there can be no further excuse for the continuation of economic sanctions against Baghdad.

Iraq is also subjected to occupation by U.S. troops even though the council's resolutions did not envisage or condone such occupation. Besides, the war in the Gulf has ended and there can be no military or political justification for this foreign military presence on Iraqi soil. If anything, there is now a cause for the Security Council to act expeditiously to end this occupation of southern Iraq.

Stability in the region cannot be restored as long as such incongruities and contradictions persist to be the order of the day. There can also be no permanent security and peace in that part of the world as long as Iraq is being subjected to occupation, economic blockade and political ostracism by the coalition forces of the Gulf war. Baghdad cannot be expected to honour its commitments to make reparations to Kuwait, for example, for losses it sustained due to the Iraqi seven-month occupation, without access to foreign markets to sell its oil and begin the process of reconstruction. There is no way that that war-devastated and -torn country can stand on its feet and begin to meet its obligations under the U.N. resolutions under such dire conditions.

There is little doubt that Iraq's continued well-being and independence are indispensable to the Gulf's and the whole region's stability and security. If the aims of the persistent pressures on Iraq are to divide the country on the basis of religion and ethnicity of the Iraqi people, then there is no sure way to end this process of Lebanonisation and prevent it from creeping into the far reaches of the Middle East.

It is absurd that a time when the U.N. Security Council had acted with full force and speed to end the Kuwaiti occupation it is caught watching with ominous silence attempts to dismember Iraq and topple its legitimate government. The council's complicity in the current conspiracies being waged in the open against that country can be illustrated by its inaction to impose a *de jure* ceasefire in the area till now. What other motive can there be behind this stalling in declaring such an official truce than to change the Iraqi leadership and create a vacuum that can be exploited by Iraq's neighbours and enemies? Iraq has lived up to all its commitments to the world even though many were arbitrarily imposed on it.

It is now the turn of the international community to live up to its duties and responsibilities towards a member of the U.N. by removing the gory logic and the cynical policies that have characterised international dealings with that bleeding country so far.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN VIEW OF Israel's rejection of Washington's call for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as expressed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Jordan can see no way for effective measures to be applied on Israel through the international community other than concerted action on the part of the Arab Nation as a whole, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. In his statement to parliament, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri made this point clear, stressing the need for a prompt action on the part of the Arab Nation to counter Israel's moves and in the light of the fast moving international developments, the paper noted. What encourages Israel to reject ideas coming from the United States about a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict is the present disarray in the ranks of Arab states, and the lack of solidarity and collective action, the paper argued. The creation of axes and the policy of polarisation within the Arab World cannot ensure a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, nor can they guarantee security for the region as the foreign minister was careful to point out in his statement. The paper said that Jordan, as expressed by King Hussein, is opening its arms for reconciliation and cooperation with the other Arab states without limits, and is opening a new chapter in its relations with all states to be based on mutual trust. The settlement of the Arab-Israeli issue and the restoration of Palestinian people's rights in their homeland can only come through concerted efforts, said the paper. Should the status quo in the Arab region remain unchanged, the paper added, the Arabs have no hope of enjoying real peace and stability.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises European countries for following in the footsteps of the United States in waging war on Iraq and in issuing false statements about their willingness to help solve the Arab-Israeli issue. Abdul Rahim Omar notes that France, for instance, which was active in the war against Iraq, was quick to respond to Washington's desires of freezing links with the PLO within the framework of discussions over the Palestinian issue. The writer draws attention to France's foreign minister's statement in Paris recently in which he made it clear that his country would not try to force Israel to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, exactly as James Baker did when he stated in Israel that Washington has no intention of imposing any solution on the Jewish state. The foreign ministers of the United States and France seem to be adopting stands different in form but not in substance from those of their presidents; and are totally ignoring the PLO and avoiding any mention of Jordan and Iraq in the course of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, the writer notes. What the Western countries are doing now seems to be a new onslaught on the Arabs not in the form of bombs like those dropped on Iraqi cities, but in media campaigns and propaganda designed to absorb the Arab World's wrath over the aggression on Iraq, says Omar.

View from Amman

More lessons from Gulf crisis

ONE of the most important lessons that we, and the rest of the world, should learn from this latest Gulf crisis, is that might and power alone are never a replacement for policy and diplomacy. Untempered by rationality and a genuine search for alternative scenarios, naked power can lead to disasters. The speed with which the Zionised West resorted to the use of naked and brutal force exposed the near primitive nature of a civilisation almost always ready to revert to the law of the jungle; and even worse, as it did in Nazi Germany and fascist Italy in this century, at the least provocation. And while we, as victims, are not innocent of the crime committed against us, we have to understand the Western tendency towards violence: a violence that one witnesses on a daily basis in the major cities of the so-called civilised West.

The personalisation of the struggle against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was merely a thin veneer hiding a racist attitude towards the Arabs. Quickly but assuredly, the WOGS of the area, once the focus of amusement or ridicule, became dehumanised to mere objects to be ruthlessly dealt with. We must understand that regardless of where we stood in relation to this latest crisis, we are now, as before viewed as no more than tools to be manipulated and pawns to be moved at will.

In emphasising this theme it is hoped that attention will focus in the future on ways to protect not only our material but psychological well-being as well. Western rationalism, that has enchanted and attracted so many of our intellectuals in the past, must be balanced against our view of Western capability to cause damage, not only to us but to itself as well. It would seem that Western technological advances have far outstripped the capacity of the Western soul to absorb and to tame the primeval human

tendency towards violence. Just think: If that is what the West is willing to do under the slogan of the "liberation of Kuwait," what would it do should Israel be really threatened?

The speed with which our Arab order collapsed, indeed disintegrated, is also a lesson to which we should pay close attention. It would appear that, however our strong popular sentiment towards Arab unity, or even cooperation or coordination, the centrifugal forces within the Arab World are much more powerful than those of unity. This fact should not escape us as it surely has not escaped that West. What the West was and is now telling us is that the Sykes-Picot, Balfour Declaration borders demarcated in the wake of the World War I — with possibly small cosmetic alterations — are here to stay. It is thus incumbent upon us to understand that should we desire any alterations on these frontiers, new methods must be devised. And until such time as these new methodologies are devised, either by peaceful choice as was the case when the two Yemens were united, or by a more efficient use of force, the present Arab, indeed Middle Eastern state system is here to stay. It is, however, hoped that the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait will be the last incident in which force be used between the Arab states.

The shock of the crisis and its costly aftermath in human and material terms should be the last danger signal for us. Arabs to put our house in order. We must expand the dialogue, if it ever existed, between revolution and wealth: *Thawrah* and *Tharwah* in Arabic. Arab development and the planning of a more integrated and less uneven system of socio-economic justice should become a primary Arab concern. Democratisation and the need to build a more rational system of decision-making are no longer luxury

items for exaltation by Arab poets and intellectuals, but matters of life and death.

Our life, thus far dependent almost solely on the whim, and often the whimsey of the inspired charismatic leaders, cannot go on as it has thus far. In looking forward towards the remaining decade of this century and the coming one, we have to realise that our cocooned existence, concerned more with the preservation of the past or attempting to relive it, is not only halting our physical but our mental development too. It is also the duty of our leaders and intellectuals, also cocooned either in executive palaces or ivory towers, to broaden their own horizons and to have the confidence to dialogue more meaningfully with their own people rather than continuing their thus far, fascination with everything foreign. There is wisdom in this land that is also reaching for an outlet to make itself more meaningful; indeed useful.

Whatever horror the crisis may have wrought; it also stirred the stagnancy that was, making more meaningful the popular wisdom exhorting not to hate even that which appears to be most hateful as it may bring something good in its wake. Iraq lit the light in a dark cave that exposed not stability as some may have thought but the helplessness of a body in disease. Maybe the crisis will teach us how to learn.

Having learned how to learn, we must understand that our existence before the crisis on the spectrum of world affairs was no more than a zero on the left: totally marginalised. The "brotherly" relations between the Arab "sisters" were no more than a mere exercise in make-believe. To survive we must realise that we are a culture, desperately fighting for itself, in a rapidly changing world and that we must exit, and quickly, from the wonderland which we once inhabited.

West confused over Iraq's unrest

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — The scale of the anti-government unrest in Iraq has confused the United States and divided the western allies who drove Baghdad's forces out of Kuwait last month, Iraqi opposition figures say.

Washington is torn between its desire to see the ousting of President Saddam Hussein and its fear that an opposition victory could lead to a pro-Iranian Muslim extremist government that might further destabilise the Gulf, these sources say.

"The Americans say they want to see Saddam Hussein go, but they are not happy at all about the alternative," said Hoshyar Zehari, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq.

"They are terrified about the prospect of a fundamentalist regime in Iraq. They prefer a takeover by the military or by (Saddam's rivals in) the Baath Party to keep order in Iraq," said Zehari after speaking to U.S. congressmen in Washington.

The U.S.-led coalition has looked on as the Iraqi leader's forces have fought bloody battles against insurgents in various parts of the country.

Washington has felt obliged to

set some limits. Vice President Dan Quayle has threatened "serious consequences" if Baghdad used chemical weapons against the rebels and President George Bush said Wednesday the use of helicopters violated Gulf cease-fire terms.

But the official policy in allied capitals in that if the present Baghdad government is to be toppled that is for the Iraqi people to decide, though western and Arab leaders in the coalition have said openly they want to see Saddam replaced.

Where the western allies differ is in the approach to adopt towards the exiled opposition groups, 17 of which have formed a joint action committee dedicated to ousting President Saddam.

The opposition, consisting of Shi'ite Muslims, Kurds, Communists, dissident Baathists and other factions, held a conference in Beirut this week where they agreed a temporary coalition should replace President Saddam and call free elections.

To the exasperation of the opposition groups, who say they have carried out to the letter President George Bush's wish that they should rise up against President Saddam, Washington

has refused to hold political talks with them.

"We felt that political meetings with them ... would not be appropriate for our policy at this time," State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said this week, referring to Kurdish figures.

Britain, by contrast, has actively pursued contacts with the anti-Saddam groups. A junior foreign minister, Douglas Hogg, last week met spokesmen from five opposition parties representing the joint action committee.

"Britain is out in front of us," a U.S. official commented.

France and Italy have also shown some interest in the opposition. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has called on the different groupings to pool their efforts.

But all western countries are concerned to a greater or lesser extent by what might happen if the opposition did triumph, despite its claims of adherence to democratic principles.

Some scenarios advanced by western diplomats envisage pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists controlling Iraq and threatening the Gulf, or else an Iraq divided into a Shi'ite south, a Kurdish north and a Sunni centre.

While western officials dismiss

suggestions that they might prefer a Saddam shorn of his military power to his potential replacement, many concede that the ousting of the Iraqi leader is hardly likely to end the region's problems.

"It would be naive to believe that if he goes, everything in the garden is rosy," one British official said.

Some experts contest whether the Iraqi Shi'ite groups at present based in Iran would, if in power, turn out to be loyal servants of Tehran. Already some of the groups have complained that Iraq has not backed them as much as they would like.

But few western diplomats deny that stability in the Gulf is their over-riding concern.

"Obviously, having gone to all this effort to create stability in the Gulf, if Iraq came out with a government that did not contribute to stability, would be concerned," one said.

French Foreign Minister Dumas said in an interview this week that Saddam's future was not the problem.

"Iraq's future will be settled in the coming weeks. What is more important is to look at Iraq's place in regional security," he said.

and a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

But some experts suggest that France, if it wants to keep pace with major powers, will have to decrease its near-total reliance on domestic armaments and buy some top-line items from abroad.

Mitterrand's socialist government was bolstered during the war by support from the mainstream centre-right opposition. That detente is ending, but strains of anti-Americanism and support for Arab radicals now come from fringes of the left and right rather than the middle of the political spectrum.

One of France's foremost post-war priorities will be to secure its status as one of U.N. Security Council's five permanent members. In Germany, Japan and elsewhere, questions have been raised about why World War II veterans France and Britain deserve this status in perpetuity.

Carving out a redefined role as close partner of the United States as well as a leading player in the European Community could help France defend its U.N. privileges.

It won't hurt to have George Bush saying the kind of things he said Monday, after talks with Premier Michel Rocard.

He referred to French-U.S. cooperation in the Gulf as "a wonderful thing," and declared: "France is a key, terribly important country with special knowledge and interests in that part of the world."

Mitterrand's defence advisers plan to press ahead with major weapons projects, including a new generation of battle tanks

Last refuge of a hi-tech nation

By Robert Lifton

WAR is exciting especially when you win, and America is now in the full flush of triumph. But was this really a "war" and what did we lose in "winning"?

Our ostentatious embrace of victory — our triumphalism — poses grave problems for the state of our national soul. Our claim to glory can hardly erase, psychologically or morally, some highly unpalatable features of our behaviour in the Gulf.

Just about all of the fighting there, was done by our side. To be sure, the Iraqis positioned a large army in Kuwait, and they killed people with Scud missiles, fired mostly at civilian targets. But they could never mount any real opposition to our overwhelming technology of destruction.

Concerning our air offensive, a taxi driver summed things up accurately enough in declaring to me: "This ain't no war... It's just us dropping bombs and killing people."

Nor does aiming at military targets make that any less true. The ground war turned out to be not very different. It consisted mainly of our tanks moving rapidly through Kuwait and Iraq, the only real impediment to the advance being that of arranging custody for the enormous number of enemy soldiers seeking to surrender themselves to our forces. Here and there Iraqis did some fighting, but hardly enough to permit them to qualify as participants in a "war."

This does not mean that American troops were not in danger or that, as individuals, they behaved badly. But what our policies brought about was the devastation of a small, industrially backward, Third World country, the annihilation of much of its military forces, the killing of many civilians, and the destruction of the life-sustaining services of its main cities.

What epitomises this war more than anything else was our mass killing from the air of fleeing Iraqi soldiers. With our cluster bombs, as one pilot put it, "We hit the jackpot." And according to another, the slaughter accomplished by waves of fighter-bombers attacking a vast column of fleeing Iraqi soldiers, estimated to be 20 to 30 miles long, was such that, "it was close to Armageddon."

We cannot long postpone the questions we are now avoiding: is this responsible behaviour on the part of a country claiming to be a humane democracy; could we not have avoided much of the slaughter by ending the war much earlier, as the Soviets and many others wished us to do, while still achieving the goals laid down by the United Nations; could we not have avoided war altogether by pressing sanctions and a diplomacy of common security?

The still more difficult question is what our actions in the war have done to us people. We became quickly dominated by an ugly pattern of war psychology that justified the killing of large numbers of defenceless people. Our hi-tech weapons eased the pro-

cess by enabling us to remain numbed to it and dissociated from it. This war psychology required us to view our soldiers as noble heroes toward whom opposition to the war would represent betrayal.

What then emerged was an aggressive patriotism: not the kind that celebrates love of one's people and homeland, but the more narrow and nasty kind that Samuel Johnson once called "the last refuge of a scoundrel." It led not only to idolatrous flag waving but also to policies of hounding and ultimately ostracising those who failed to do so; as in the case of the basketball player who declined to have a flag sewed on to his uniform because he was an Italian Christian pacifist.

How much racism we all evoked is hard to say. We did not attack the Iraqis because they were not whites — we had non-white allies in the war — but can we say that our willingness to destroy on such a large scale was not influenced by that racial difference? Certainly many in the Middle East have that view. "The Arabs are not human in American eyes, they step on us like ants," a Jordanian shop-owner said.

Also of great importance is a psychological tendency we may call military technicism: a relationship to our advanced military equipment that enables us to view our own individual lives as more valuable than those of people without such technology. That pattern can become enshrined in a form of hi-tech nationalism.

We then run the risk of seeing ourselves not only as a blessed country but also as the agent of an all-powerful technological deity. Militarised high technology becomes equated with absolute virtue, and as possessors of that virtue we have the duty to be the most powerful of world policemen.

American militarised nationalism reached a troubling crescendo during the President's address to both Houses of Congress night when (as the New York Times reported) he "basked in the atmosphere of triumph, which produced cheers at his every mention of the military."

We are capable of much better. Large numbers of Americans have had grave misgivings about our war in the Gulf, and many who supported it are likely to join in national reassessment of what has been involved.

Can we not reconnect with the wave of universalism that has characterised the late 20th century rebellions against oppressive regimes in Europe, China, and South Africa? But to do that we need first to confront our own experience in the Gulf. Not so much in terms of what we have won as what we have lost and must regain.

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Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

United States to suspend dialogue with the organisation last June. The United States has made PLO condemnation of the attack a condition for the renewal of talks.

Mr. Arafat questioned why the United Nations demand Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait but far less of Israel in the case of the Palestinians.

"There is one standard for us and another for others," he said.

Abu Sharif said meanwhile this week's meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and Palestinians "opened the

door widely" to resume the U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

Mr. Abu Sharif said in an interview with Washington Jewish Week that the PLO had instructed the Palestinian group on what to tell Mr. Baker and had given them a memorandum that they presented to Mr. Baker.

Mr. Baker on Tuesday met in occupied Jerusalem with 10 Palestinians who are not members of the PLO but who said they agreed to attend only after receiving the organisation's blessing.

Mr. Abu Sharif also said the PLO was considering forming a government-in-exile as a way of "introducing new blood" into

the organisation.

Mr. Abu Sharif appeared to back off previous demands that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict be resolved through an international peace conference — a forum Israel rejected.

"The form is not important," he was quoted as saying. The important thing is that Israel accept President Bush's call to trade land for peace, he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, asked by the United States for new thinking on Middle East peace, was dusted off an old idea of secretly meeting non-PLO Palestinians.

Mr. Shamir wanted to meet Arabs from the West Bank and

Gaza Strip who were not linked to the PLO, Yossi Ben Aharon, director general of his office, said Friday.

"We want to make another effort at beginning some kind of discussion, a dialogue with Palestinians," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ben Aharon declined to say when or with whom Shamir would meet. But he ruled out the 10 leaders who saw Mr. Baker.

"What we want to achieve is a dialogue with the authentic Palestinians, not slaves, not stooges," Ben Aharon asserted.

He said Mr. Baker and other foreign ministers who come to occupied Jerusalem meet the "wrong" Palestinians.

كنا من الالح

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

we have certainly had the Canadian foreign minister, the three European foreign ministers and most recently, the British secretary of state, so there is certainly an insight into his thinking at this stage.

King: Are you hurt or bothered that he did not include you?

Prince Hassan: I don't feel hurt or bothered. I think that, as you said, Jordan is used to being caught in the middle. We are a key country and I think our track record — despite the difference with the United States — will prove itself on merit. I notice, of course that across the river Israel has the occasional spat with the United States and manages to recover. I hope the same applies to Jordan in the near future.

King: Frankly, Your Highness, should he have come to Jordan?

Prince Hassan: At this time, the main thing is a meeting of minds, and my feeling is that this was a tour of the region in the context of the coalition partners. I hope that the meeting of minds takes place soon. Of course, there would have been no objection to his visiting, had he chosen to do so. I myself, will be travelling to the United Kingdom, to Canada, and talking in San Francisco. I won't be visiting Washington on this occasion.

King: Would your brother, King Hussein, come to Washington, if asked?

Prince Hassan: I think that the meeting has to take place at the highest levels as soon as possible. And I say "at the highest levels" because we have to really define what it is we are talking about in terms of the region. We believe it should be democracy, security, and prosperity for all and we certainly, as a responsible state in this part of the world, are deeply concerned about the future of people problems.

King: So, if asked, the King would come to Washington to meet with the president?

Prince Hassan: Well, that's clearly up to the two heads of state, but I think certainly, they have to work it out whether to meet in Washington or anywhere else. There has to be a meeting at some stage. We can't continue the sign language. After all, the window of opportunity for peace in this area can't be more than a year.

King: All right, Mr. Fitzwater, Mr. Bush's press representative and secretary, said that your brother the King, King Hussein, had sent a letter to President Bush in an attempt to try and improve relations. What can you tell us about that letter?

Prince Hassan: I think the end of hostilities was a blessing for the region and, clearly, in that context the two of them communicated. I don't have any more to add to that but I hope, as I said, they meet soon, exchange views soon, and I think that is extremely important for the stability of this region.

King: When you say the two communicated, to your knowledge has President Bush responded to the letter, or has he communicated with the King?

Prince Hassan: I believe that there is a continuous exchange, but at what level and with what content and substance, of course, is the question. Today Mr. Baker has visited the region, is now in Moscow on his way home. We are not yet privileged to know what the substance of those talks are and I would imagine we would only know once he has taken stock.

King: You don't know what was in the letter from the King to the president?

Prince Hassan: I think, apart from an expression of relief that the hostilities are over and the hope that we can bring stability and happiness — there are a lot of people suffering in Iraq, in Kuwait, in Palestine, in Lebanon — to this region — I don't think it went more than basic civilities of that kind.

King: Do you think there will be a meeting between President Bush and your brother?

Prince Hassan: I would expect so, but when that will be I am not entirely sure. But, certainly, it has to take place in the near future.

King: The speech that your brother made that had so much to do with causing this cleavage, when he spoke — literally, I guess — in favour of Saddam Hussein and against the efforts of the coalition: Did that surprise you, Your Highness?

Prince Hassan: Well, I think that there was selective interpretation of the speech. He spoke basically addressing the Arab and Muslim world, saying that our identity is being threatened. And let's face it, there has been a devastating war — in terms of the environment, in terms of people losses — in the context of Iraq and Kuwait. We can't get away from that. But he also made a plea for peace and he certainly reiterated that in his most recent statement.

But as I said, we have to really get on with the future now and if we just hold up one speech as having impeded the improvement of relations between Jordan and the United States after four decades I think that's rather sad.

King: Were you surprised that President Bush called that speech a disappointment?

Prince Hassan: I can understand from both sides that there would be expressions of disappointment. From this side, we were disappointed that we were not able to avoid this war, to avert it. In terms of President Bush's constituency, clearly it could be expressed in terms of disappointment.

Asked what part Saddam Hussein should or will play in the Middle East peace process, the Prince said: He is the head of state in Iraq today. I think, clearly, if there is an opening of a channel of communication for all heads of state in this region to speak about a future regional peace, then there has to be an admission ticket. And that admission ticket, I think, has to be clearly democracy, respect for human rights, and emphasis on people problems and people prosperity. And this should apply across the board as I said, without personalising the issue, but my fear is that we continue with this, what I call "flavour of the month thing" — good Iraqis or bad Syrians or good Jordanians or bad Israelis, or whatever it may be, whatever the name fits at a given moment — and we don't look at the woods, we don't look at the Middle East region and that window of opportunity with this tremendous international interest in seeing regional stability achieved; and we fritter it away with going back to arms purchases. Eighteen billion dollars. I understand, now are already contracted for new arms into the Middle East, now as we're talking.

King: Did you sell arms to Iraq?

Prince Hassan: We certainly did not sell arms, we are not a seller country. We don't manufacture arms to sell them nor did we send them to Iraq, as has been suggested in newspaper reports. This is totally untrue.

King: Certainly not after the embargo you're saying. Before the embargo, did you?

Prince Hassan: Absolute — well, before embargo the whole world sent arms to Iraq during the period in question — 1981 during the Iraq-Iran war.

King: I mean, are you saying now no selling of arms to anybody in the Middle East?

Prince Hassan: I wish I could see effectively a conventional force reduction across the board in the Middle East. Obviously, one has to maintain an equilibrium to avoid another flash point, but that could be achieved in the Gulf by a conflict-free zone, rather like what you have in the Arctic Circle to protect the climate and the ice of the world. Why can't we see an international agreement to protect the energy of the world and stop this business of every tiny country in the region buying astronomical figures of new weapons?

King: Is there a chance, Your Highness — a chance out of all of these windows occurring — of you and Israel sitting down?

Prince Hassan: I think, in the context of this dual track. It's inter-state on the one side, inter-governmental agreements, and the Palestinians people on the other. We saw Mr. Baker speaking to the Palestinians in the West Bank. If these two tracks move towards this long-awaited appropriate vehicle which solves all problems of the region — the international conference — then, clearly, we would all be there alongside the Palestinians.

King: Is the PLO the negotiation?

Prince Hassan: Well, they are the symbol of the Palestinian political struggle in this phase. They represent the Palestinians and I would imagine those Palestinians in the West Bank who meet with visiting dignitaries say that, "We are PLO," in the sense that that is the symbol.

King: All right?

Prince Hassan: The problem is that if you get into telling the Palestinians who represents them, you end up with religious parties on the one side, or nationalist parties on the other, Palestinians in Tunis, in Damascus, in Cairo — I don't think that one can start telling the Palestinians who represents them. One has to face politics in terms of reality, and the perception is very clear.

King: Your Highness, what role now do you think Syria plays?

Prince Hassan: As a state in the region and an important state in the region. We have every confidence in the statements that we have heard coming out of Damascus that they are interested in the international conference, they are interested in Palestinian participation. They clearly are talking the same language that many of us in this region are, and that is U.N. resolutions and an impor-

tant contribution to what I've always called the outer perimeter of peace in the region — that is the state contribution to basic security in the region.

King: Are you worried about Jordan and your brother? He has been a survivor for so long a time. Do you think that ever runs dry?

Prince Hassan: I think none of us are, clearly, immortal. We are not living for our own glory, or fame. We are living for the development of institutions, for the development of constitutional monarchy, for the participation of our people — Jordanians, Palestinians, whomever. And I'd love to see the day — and I'm sure he would — when we can sit back over the weekend and say, "well, the state is taking care of itself," and not have to play a role as such.

King: You have filed protests about the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait. What do you know?

Prince Hassan: We have the Amnesty International report that Palestinians in Kuwait are extremely worried about their future, that there have been revenge killings. And I suppose this is part of the trauma and shock of the present situation in Kuwait. I just hope that things will settle down — and those people, after all, are Kuwaiti dependents; they're second and third-generation born in Kuwait — that they will be able to exercise their civil and political rights.

King: How many Palestinians are in Kuwait?

Prince Hassan: We are talking of over 200,000 in Kuwait at the present time. And, certainly, this country has now 57,000 new addition to our primary schools and over 200,000 who, of course, are now in Jordan — effectively, people who were living in Kuwait who have not been able to return.

King: Do you think the United States can prevent that happening?

Prince Hassan: Well, I hope to see the same yardstick for human rights and political rights across the region, whomever it may be, and that the United States can develop this regional approach.

King: Israel has won German support for its insistence on direct Arab-Israeli talks as the next step for peace and there are reports today that Israel and the United States have accepted in principle — these are reports — a Soviet idea for a military liaison to reduce Middle East tensions. What do you think of the idea?

Prince Hassan: Well, I think it's an old new idea, the idea of a military staff committee on behalf of the permanent five Security Council members is something that the Soviets have put on the table for several months now and I think it certainly falls into the context of confidence building measures which were the type of liaison that existed between the East and the West in the cold war years. So that may — I have to look at it a little more carefully. I think it may be part of a package of baskets of confidence building as we move towards a Helsinki type process, let's hope, in the Middle East.

King: Is it true, Your Highness, that there are newspapers and indeed, many people in your country who believe Iraq won this war?

Prince Hassan: I think that when you get down to what people believe or don't believe, or don't want to believe, clearly there's a great deal of anxiety about the war and its aftermath. There's an enormous amount of sadness and mythology. Saddam Hussein and Iraq stood up to the

United States and an international coalition of 80 countries. Five Hiroshimas have landed on Iraq, and yet the situation went on for several weeks. So it's very difficult to wean people of the attitude that they had during the war and get everyone down to reality.

And at the end of the day, Larry, this is what we're talking about: What is reality? Is there to be peace, or do we just live with dreams of the past?

King: Do you expect democracy to come to Kuwait?

Prince Hassan: I can't advise other countries on how to run their affairs, but I would imagine that the writing is on the wall for all of us. We simply have to move gradually to greater participatory government. Democracy has to be a pillar of security in this part of the world, through inviting people to participate to stop the recurrence of authoritarian decisions or summary decisions by anyone. And I have said we have had an incident in this part of the world for every decade of my adult life, and before.

King: Are you optimistic. Your Highness?

Prince Hassan: Well, Churchill and Roosevelt met off the coast of Newfoundland in 1941 and talked about a post-world-war order. It took half a century to bring about — including the cold war — the Helsinki process. I don't think we can wait for another half a century. So in rather a complex way, yes, I am optimistic. I do believe in the good things in human nature and I think that we need all to exercise them.

King: And you expect fairly soon a meeting between your brother and President Bush — somewhere?

Prince Hassan: I would imagine that that has to take place. A meeting of minds has to take place. We can't continue talking past each other.

King: Thank you very much, Your Highness. Always good seeing you.

Prince Hassan: Thank you, Larry. Thank you very much, indeed.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

"As you remember from the beginning, our position was not limited, to a peace conference only. So an attempt to boil down the Soviet position merely to the conference is not adequate," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev said he hoped the talks would clear the way for a superpower summit, due to be held in Moscow last month but postponed because of the Gulf crisis and a U.S.-Soviet impasse on two arms control treaties.

Mr. Baker held talks with leaders of Arab states in the alliance against Iraq and with Israeli leaders and Palestinian representatives. He goes on to Turkey from Moscow.

After talks in Damascus, he said there was "a window of opportunity now in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis that should be seized."

But there has been little public sign from Israeli, Arab and Palestinian leaders of movement to break deadlock over the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian demands for an independent state.

Mr. Baker, however, is cautiously optimistic.

"You've got to take it a step at a time," he said. "It's a little bit premature to be... suggesting that somehow there is no opportunity here because we haven't had instant peace."

After a summit with French

President Francois Mitterrand on Thursday, U.S. President George Bush said: "We've got a chance now to think anew..." (see page 2).

On a different front, Mr. Baker Friday warmly endorsed steps taken by President Gorbachev to alleviate unrest in the Baltic republics and Westernise his stagnant economy.

After Mr. Gorbachev outlined his troubles during a Kremlin session, Mr. Baker declared the superpower relationship has survived a difficult period.

"That is good for the Soviet Union, good for the United States and good for the world," he said.

Mr. Baker reported, however, that U.S. and Soviet negotiators were unable to resolve differences over implementing a signed treaty to trim armies and weapons arsenals in Europe, or to advance another treaty still in preparation.

The stalemate means further delay in rescheduling a superpower summit meeting that was supposed to be held in February.

Mr. Baker stressed that the summit would not take place until the second treaty, designed to cut U.S. and Soviet long-range nuclear missiles by about 30 per cent, is completed.

The major dispute centres on the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty signed in Paris last November that requires Moscow, more so than the west, to make huge reduction in conventional weapons.

U.S. officials say the Soviet military, which has gained influence at the Kremlin in recent months, is trying to win back some advantages by trying to exclude three armoured units from treaty limits.

The second treaty, called START and aimed at reducing strategic nuclear arms, was to be signed at the summit but it is not completed. U.S. and Soviet officials say it could be wrapped up quickly but Washington refuses to move on this until the CFE pact is resolved.

U.S. troops

(Continued from page 1)

also said Friday that U.S. troops were moving around in southern Iraq to "demonstrate our presence" but cautioned against speculation on any pending military operations.

"Don't read anything into it. The demarcation line that was agreed to Sunday before last is intact," General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a group of newspaper officials.

ABC news said Thursday Iraq has been flying fixed-wing military planes, violating the terms of the ceasefire.

The network's Pentagon correspondent, Bob Zelnic, quoted his sources as saying the Pentagon had evidence that the planes were being moved, but it was unclear why.

"There is no easy explanation," Mr. Zelnic said, although he speculated that Iraq might be putting them in position to use against Iraqi dissidents.

Iraq kept many of its aircraft intact by parking them in hardened bunkers. An estimated 137 others were flown to Iran and have not yet been returned.

President George Bush warned Iraq that using attack helicopters to suppress internal rebellion could delay the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf.

Pentagon officials said Gen. Schwarzkopf had agreed in a meeting with Iraqi military officials that helicopters could be used only for administrative purposes in view of the destruction of bridges and roads by allied bombing.

They said fixed-wing planes were to remain grounded.

The Red Cross handed 499 Prisoners of War (PoWs) to Iraqi officials Friday after a four-day delay a Western source attributed to the unrest in Iraq.

Pascal Daudin, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Riyadh, said the handover took place late Friday morning at the Saudi-Iraq border near the Saudi desert town of Arar. The Red Cross rented a dozen Jordanian buses to take the prisoners home.

Another group of 500 Iraqi PoWs could be taken back to their homeland "in the coming days," although details have not yet been worked out, Mr. Daudin said.

In Geneva, a Red Cross headquarters spokesman said he expects another 1,000 Iraqi prisoners to be sent home in two batches over the next week.

Then, allied and Iraqi officials are due to meet again under ICRC sponsorship next Thursday to discuss further repatriations, said the spokesman, Peter Fluege.

The U.N. Security Council, meanwhile, was expected to meet informally soon to discuss possible new resolutions on the Gulf war.

The allied coalition was reportedly not interested in an early ceasefire accord until Iraq's internal rebellion was resolved. A formal ceasefire is to be decided by military commanders and expected to be approved by the Security Council.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

and sensible compromise," it said.

Mr. Mitterrand has publicly said the Kurdish problem should be tackled in a drive for Middle East peace following the Gulf war.

A senior Iranian cleric Friday accused the United States of seeking to install a pro-Western government in Iraq, and warned against outside interference.

Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili said that Washington sought to dismember Iraq, and warned "the governments in the region should be careful that Iraq must not be divided at any cost."

Ayatollah Ardebili, a former chief justice and a high-ranking cleric, said that "America wants to install a pro-Western government in Iraq."

Iran suspects Washington wants a sympathetic Iraqi government as a counterweight to anti-American Iran or will allow Syria and Turkey to divide Iraq between them as a reward for backing the Western coalition in the Gulf war.

Echoing Iran's declared policy towards Iraq, Ayatollah Ardebili said the Iraqi people must be allowed to choose their own government without outside interference.

Analysts believe that while Washington would obviously like to see a pro-American government in Baghdad, it is unlikely to want to fuel anti-American feelings in the region by trying to bring such a government to power.

Saudis to combat oil spill with natural solutions

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Saudi and international water desalination specialists are exploring the possibility of using bacterial combinations to gobble up the oil now assaulting Gulf waters.

Local and international experts gathered in Bahrain Thursday to discuss options available to clean up the giant slick, largely blamed on oil allegedly released by the Iraqis during their occupation of Kuwait.

Mohammad Alsofi, Saudi vice president of the Water Sciences and Technology Association, an affiliate of the Boston-based International Desalination Association, admits there is no alternative to using the Gulf as a testing ground for experimental cleanup methods such as bacterial agents.

"No other area needs it as much as we do since up to 50 per cent of the drinking water used in the Gulf comes from the sea," he said. Others have estimated that the arid Arabian Peninsula depends on desalination plants for up to two-thirds of its water.

"We are looking at solutions which will be employed in a non-hostile way, this is why we are looking at natural approaches," he said in an interview, adding that the bacterial method "will be complementing nature, not hindering it."

Bacteria distributors do not want to reveal particular strains used, since bacteria are not patented and can be copied by anyone.

Researchers claim to have chosen well-known strains that are harmless to humans and environment alike.

The so-called "bio fixation" process uses familiar bacteria to break down the oil hydrocarbons. The bacteria, encased in limestone granules, would be released into the waters surrounding desalination plants. After the bacteria consumes the dangerous hydrocarbons, specialists say they will naturally die off because of lack of food supply.

The world's largest desalination plant at Jubail, Saudi Arabia, which processes 230 million gallons of water per day in summer, is a potential site for the bio fixation.

Companies marketing natural solutions to the cleanup hope the Saudis will opt for their products. Surface collecting agents made from the essential oils of orange peels were used to mop up the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

New Zealand is marketing wool fiber booms which attract oil and can absorb up to 10 times natural absorbency rate.

Before any of the natural methods are employed by any of the Gulf countries, they will be subject to Saudi environmental agency approval.

Al Baath editor

blasts Iraq's state media

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper editor, in an unusually outspoken article, accused other members of the state-run media Friday of publishing lies fed to them by some officials.

"My colleagues have committed the sin of transmitting lies... without checking the information provided by some of the government bureaucrats," wrote Hamid Said in the daily al Baath, organ of President Saddam Hussein's ruling party.

"Now, as we enter the stage of reconstructing what the aggressors (Gulf war allies) have destroyed, we ought to introduce a new view to work and thoroughly get rid of slogans and superficial manifestations," added Said, also a senior party member.

"Lies are short-lived... those who lie to others, no matter to what extent they command the art of lying, cannot lie to God and to themselves."

Mr. Said, encouraging criticism of government policies, said journalists should not fear high-ranking officials as long as they were certain of the information they published.

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Liverpool aims to retake lead

LONDON (R) — Arsenal, striving for the English League and cup double, will be reduced to the role of helpless bystanders Saturday as Liverpool attempt to regain control of the first division.

Arsenal, top on goal difference, have to wait until Sunday for their clash with Leeds, while Liverpool play struggling Sunderland at Anfield a day earlier and need a point to go back to the top.

The defending champions made up lost ground last weekend by winning at Manchester City while Arsenal were on Football Association (F.A.) Cup duty.

That first win for Liverpool since the sudden departure of manager Kenny Dalglish last month could be the spark for a revival.

Sunderland, with just one win in their last six games, will hardly relish their trip to Merseyside. Striker Peter Davenport said: "If

Liverpool are said to be going through a crisis. I wonder where that puts the rest of us.

"Liverpool are only being kept off the top by goal difference at the moment and they will be confident they can get the leadership back against us."

Crystal Palace look ideally placed to consolidate their position in third place at home to bottom-of-the-table Derby Saturday.

Centre half Eric Young is set to return after missing two matches with a knee injury.

Aston Villa's England B. winger Tony Daley, who has been suffering with a hamstring injury, has a 50-50 chance of returning against Tottenham at Villa Park.

Tottenham will be without Spanish under-21 midfielder Nayim, who starts a two-match suspension for crossing the 21-points disciplinary barrier. Paul Walsh and Mitchell Thomas are injury doubts.

Vinny Samways appears the likely midfield replacement for England international Paul Gascoigne who was due to leave hospital Friday after a stomach muscle operation.

Manchester City's Neil Pointon starts a three-match ban after being sent off against Queen's Park Rangers two weeks ago and Andy Hill, on loan from third division Bury, is expected to take his place against Wimbledon.

Wimbledon, confident they can challenge for a place in Europe next season, are again likely to be without injured full-back Terry Phelan but centre half Dean Blackwell has recovered from a groin strain.

Manchester United, who earned their first point in three league games by drawing at Southampton Wednesday, should have England captain Bryan Robson and Wales striker Mark Hughes back for their visit to Nottingham Forest.

Both men rested ankle injuries Wednesday and were joined on the sidelines by groin-injury victim Clayton Blackmore who had played in all United's previous 43 games this season and should be fit again to face Forest.

Manager Alex Ferguson, whose side travel to Montpellier for the second leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final on Tuesday, said: "It was nice to get a point at Southampton after a couple of defeats and now we need a victory against Forest to set us up for the European game."

Queen's Park Rangers, with three wins in their last four games to boost their hopes of escaping the relegation zone, are likely to keep Les Ferdinand in their attack at home to Coventry even though Mark Falco is available again after injury.

Ferdinand, a former non-league striker, has scored three times in the last four games.

Capriati is 'due for a slump'

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (Agencies) — Friends and foes alike say Jennifer Capriati is due for a slump.

The talk of tennis last year as a 13-year-old Rookie, she made a steady climb up the rankings. She'll be seeded sixth in the \$2.55-million International Players Championships.

"The sophomore year is always hard for everybody," said Gigi Fernandez, who has played doubles with Capriati and lost to her last week at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

"She's going to start feeling the pressure now, because it's the second year. It happens to everybody."

At Key Biscayne last year, Capriati won three matches to reach the final 16 in her second pro tournament. She and the other men's and women's seeds have first-round byes in the 10-day event.

Monica Seles replaced Steffi Graf in the women's no. 1 ranking Monday, but Graf is seeded first and Seles second. That means Graf could face a semifinal match against no. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini, who beat the German in the final of the Virginia Slims of Florida.

If Graf wins the tournament and Seles loses before the finals, Graf will regain her no. 1 ranking.

ing.

Stefan Edberg, who bumped Boris Becker from the no. 1 ranking last month, is the top men's seed, with Becker second. Jimmy Connors, who has played just one match this year and is ranked no. 961, is a wild-card entry.

Nine of the top 10 men are entered, with only no. 3 Ivan Lendl absent. John McEnroe withdrew Sunday because of an ailing back.

The women's field includes six of the top 10 players.

Capriati's sophomore year is off to a good start. She reached the semis of last week's tournament at Boca Raton, Florida, before losing to Sabatini.

The Argentine pointed out a few weaknesses in Capriati's game.

"She has to improve her serve. Last year it was a little better," Sabatini said. "And she should probably try to come to the net a little more. But she has some very good shots from the baseline."

Last year, Capriati reached the finals in her pro debut at Boca Raton. She became the youngest Grand Slam semifinalist at the French Open, won three matches at Wimbledon and even captured a tournament title — at Puerto Rico in October. She beat five top 10 players during the year.

Canadian swimmers score three wins in World Cup

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Canadians have taken three races in the second and closing day of the Swimming World Cup, matching the powerful German and Soviet teams for victories at the Milan meeting.

Mark Tewksbury, silver medalist in the World Championships at Perth, won the men's 100-metre backstroke while his Canadian teammate Marcel Gery captured the 200-metre butterfly.

Nancy Sweetnam edged Australian Julie Majer and fellow Canadian Marianne Limpert in the women's 200-metre medley.

It was the second victory in the two-day meet for Sweetnam, who won the 400-metre medley Wednesday.

Tewksbury won the backstroke in 53.89 seconds, beating Rodolfo Falcon of Cuba by 0.34 seconds. Gery completed his 200 fly in 1 minute, 58.67 seconds, .24 seconds ahead of Britain's Tim Jones.

Alexander Popov of the Soviet Union dominated the sprints, adding the 100-metre freestyle to

Wednesday's success in the 50 metres.

Popov was clocked in 49.26 seconds, one second off the world and European record. Germany's Christian Troeger was second in 49.27.

World champion Elena Volkova dominated the women's 200-metre breaststroke, winning in 2:27.68, .24 ahead of France's Audrey Guertl.

Another world champion, Germany's Joerg Hoffmann, finished fourth in the men's 400-metre freestyle, behind winning compatriot Uwe Dassler.

Dassler finished in 3:48.81, more than a second ahead of Australian Ian Brown.

Hoffmann, a double gold medalist in Perth, finished in 3:51.50.

Julie Majer scored the only win for Australia Thursday, the women's 200-metre butterfly. Susanne Bosserhoff of Germany was nearly four seconds behind Majer, who won the 200-metre freestyle Wednesday.

Jockey convicted after hiding in the fog

LAKE CHARLES, Louisiana (AP) — A jockey was convicted Thursday of using the cover of dense fog to slip away from the pack and rejoin a horse race to claim an easy victory.

Sylvester Carmouche Jr., 31, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and was fined \$250 plus court costs. The judge suspended 20 days of the jail sentence.

Carmouche's attorney said they would appeal the sentence as excessive.

Landing Officer, with Carmouche aboard, initially was declared the winner in the race on Jan. 11, 1990 at Delta Downs.

Track officials thought Landing Officer, a 23-1 long shot, had come within 1 1/2 seconds of a track record in winning the 11th race.

But the horse didn't show signs of having run a long, strenuous race.

Carmouche was accused of slipping Landing Officer out of the mile-long (1.6 kilometre-long) race near the start, waiting in the fog until the eight other horses rounded the track and then charging back ahead of the pack near the final turn.

The margin of victory was estimated at between 23 to 25 lengths.

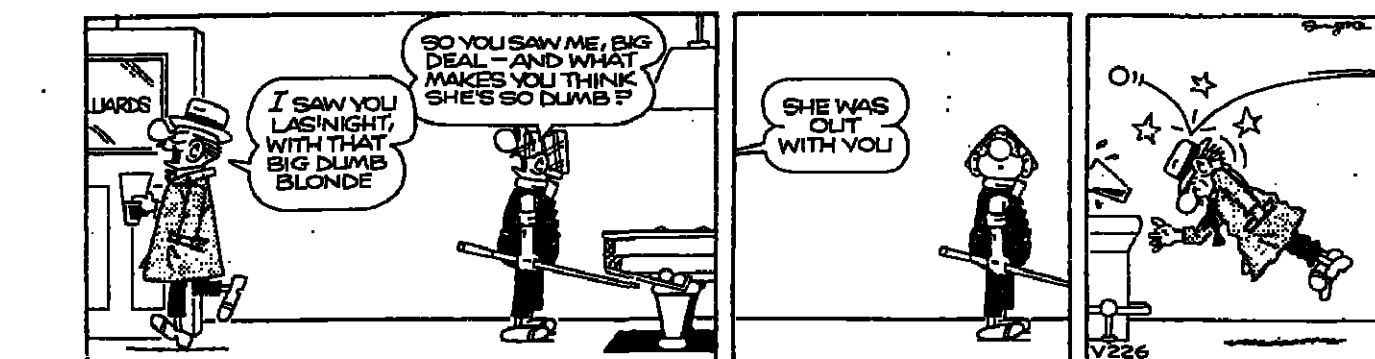
The Louisiana Racing Commission found him guilty and suspended him for 10 years. "It ain't right. I know I ain't did it," Carmouche said after the commission voted.

State prosecutors took him to trial for misdemeanor attempted theft of \$90 — the difference between the \$140 he would have as winner and the \$50 each jockey was paid for entering the race.

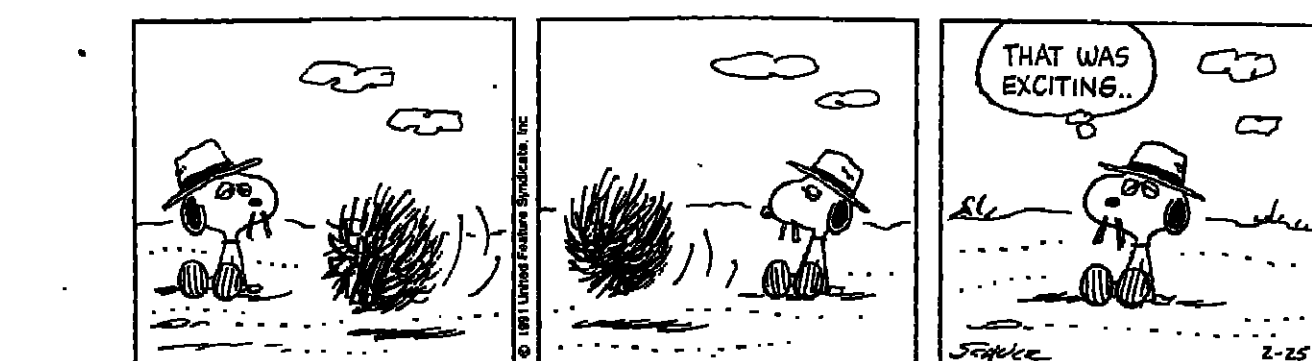
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Canadian captures men's figure skating title

MUNICH (AP) — On a night that saw more quadruple jumps than all previous World Championships, Kurt Browning, the first man to land it in competition, captured the title without doing one.

The Canadian backed out of a quad, but successfully completed three triple-triple combinations in a stunning jumping performance that gave him the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships Thursday.

Browning, 24, becomes the first male competitor to win three straight titles since Scott Hamilton of the United States won four in a row between 1981 and 1984.

Two-time European champion and last year's runner-up, Viktor Petrenko of the Soviet Union, who led entering the free skate, missed a triple jump and scaled down his only triple-triple combination to a triple-double and had to settle for the silver medal. He landed six triples cleanly.

U.S. national champion Todd Eldredge clinched the bronze with a programme that included eight triples, ahead of Petre Bara of Czechoslovakia and Christopher Bowman of the United States.

Browning had won his previous two titles by coming from behind. This time too his programme contained the most difficult elements accompanied by Italian music.

He opened with a triple axel-triple toe loop combination that delighted the crowd at Munich's Olympic Hall, and added two more combos in a programme that contained eight triple jumps.

"The combinations show a lot of power coming out of the first jump and the judges appreciate that," Browning said.

Although he scaled down his

trademark quadruple toe loop to a triple, Browning's marks were all 5.98 and 5.88.

"I wanted to do it, but when I went up into the air, I decided not to," said Browning. "I was so excited and so pumped I didn't tuck in enough."

Petrenko's programme was far less spectacular in terms of jumps, but he did earn a perfect 6.0 from the American judge for artistic impression.

"I gave 100 per cent today," Petrenko said. "I am little upset because I was so close to a gold medal."

Six of the nine judges gave Browning first place in the free programme, which counted for two-thirds in the overall score.

Earlier, Elvis Stojko of Canada and Alexei Uрманov of the Soviet Union landed quadruple toe loops. Stojko in a combination with a double toe loop, a first in competition. Stojko finished sixth and Uрманov eighth.

Previously, the only two quads in competition were by Browning, at the 1988 worlds in Budapest, and Uрманov at this year's European Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Eldredge, who moved up from fifth to third with a clean programme, showed unusual emotion for him.

"After the nationals I did a lot of work with a ballet instructor," said the 19-year-old Eldredge. "I worked a lot on stamina and tried to show my programme better."

Bowman tried a quad but fell and dropped to fifth after a second and third the two previous years.

Paul Wylie of the United States jumped from 31st to 11th with a free skate that made up for his disastrous, error-filled original programme.

Californian determined to keep motorcycling crown

LONDON (R) — Californian Wayne Rainey is determined to hang on to his world 500 cc motorcycling crown for Yamaha this season but the odds are against him.

Superstitious bikers are quick to point out that while Yamaha have taken the championship in every even-numbered season since 1984, Honda have ruled the roost in the odd years.

Rainey, always the calmest of riders, is unlikely to let such thoughts unsettle him when the season starts up in Japan on March 24.

In young Australian Michael Doohan, third-placed overall last season after winning his first Grand Prix in Hungary, Honda have the makings of an exciting future world champion.

In unofficial testing at Suzuka this month, the quiet Queenslander was a mere fraction outside Rainey's lap record — no mean feat for a man with only two seasons behind him.

And in his compatriot Wayne Gardner, winner on home soil of the last Grand Prix, Honda have an ex-champion raring to go after

a bone graft operation on his right wrist.

Triple champion Eddie Lawson, winner in 1986 and 1988 on a Yamaha and then on a Honda in 1989, rode with Rainey last season but will now be his rival.

If he does it for Cagiva — a long shot considering that the Italian team have yet to win a race despite pouring huge sums of money into the bike — "steady Eddie" will be the first man to win for three separate manufacturers.

Rainey ran away with the title last season, ahead of flamboyant Texan Kevin Schwantz, but several changes introduced since then should make it hard to repeat such a feat.

The main differences are heavier minimum weights for the machines and a new scoring system which means riders will discard their worst two results from the 15 races.

Organisers introduced the points ruling to try to avoid a repeat of last season when a series of crashes early on made the title a foregone conclusion long before the final race.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Pisces makes it a good day for an outing by the water, for picnics or for whatever recreations you enjoy. Relax and enjoy yourself and encourage others to do likewise.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Matters at your own residence are not apt to be as you wish during the daytime so start an argument there so you can relax or entertain at home.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time out to show that you value the good will and the active alliance of those who are daily allies in various outside endeavours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Practical considerations can well occupy your waking hours so make sure that you do get into financial and property matters and improve them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a feeling during the daytime that you are being imposed upon but do your work well and you can have a happy time as you like.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind pertaining to eliminating tiresome chores during the day is just great, then tonight enjoy quiet, romantic pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A friend can be quite a problem during the daytime if you let

him upset you by his complaints so ignore as much as possible, then have a pleasant evening.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the time for you to make sure that you do everything you have promised and followed every rule or law applied to you, then you can go out.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are able to gain the good will of that vital person who has very different ideas from yours but that you respect and do admire.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are some pretty demanding obligations for you to take care of so stop putting off the payments and get them behind you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to make sure that you do find out the over-all picture that partners want you to be in with them in new projects.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There is so much work for you to do now you would be wise not to waste a moment but to get it in back of you for some new activities are coming up.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to find that pleasure that means so much to you and that has seemed difficult to enjoy by pursuing it steadfastly today, then enjoy tonight.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

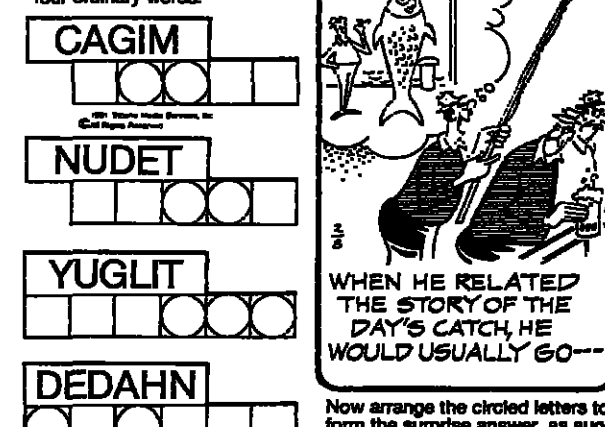
HARRIS' 19



"New video game for adults! If Father Time touches you, you gain five pounds and another gray hair!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

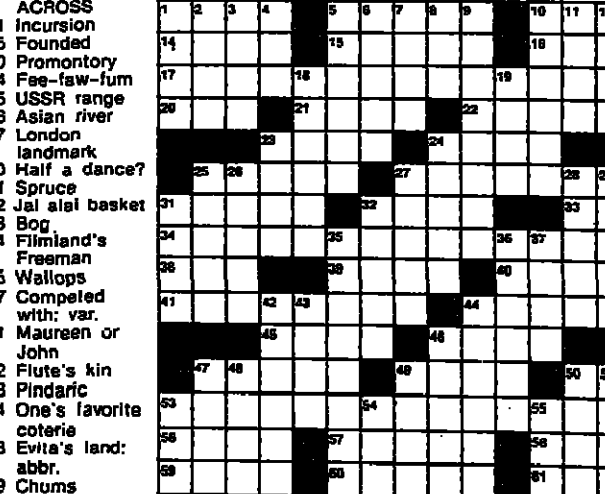


Answer here: TO

Yesterday's Jumbles: DANDY BEGUN WHOLLY FACILE
Answer: What the temperamental witch often did— FLEW OFF THE HANDLE

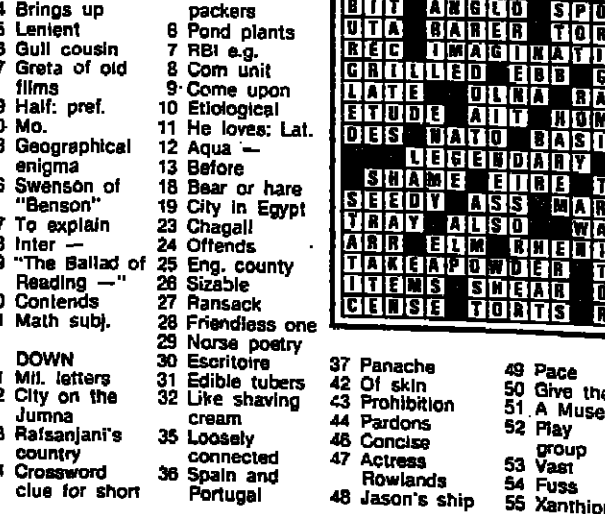
THE Daily Crossword

by Bernice Gordon



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solv'd:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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INNOCENCE ABROAD

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 5 3
♥ J 2
♦ A 9
♣ J 10 5 4 2

WEST
♠ Q 4
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ 10 6
♣ Q 8 6 3

EAST
♠ A K 9 6 4
♥ A K 8 4 3
♦ 9
♣ A K 7

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 7 6 2
♥ 10
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A K 7

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass 1 ♣ 2 ♠

Pass 4 ♠ 4 NT Dbl

5 ♠ Dbl 5 ♣ Dbl

5 ♥ Pass Pass 5 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

There was a refreshing mixture of

guile and innocence at the European

Junior Championship in Neumun-

ster, West Germany. Both were in

evidence on this hand from the

Great Britain-Ireland match.

In one room, the Irish were con-

tent to double five hearts and collect

their three aces for a score of 200. In

the other, the British South refused

to take the small profit and bid on to

five spades. Here, too, it seemed

that, since the bidding had marked

East with 11 cards in the red suits,

declarer had three sure losers, but a

funny thing happened on the way to

the forum.

Declarer won the opening dia-

mond lead, cashed the ace and king

of trumps and then casually led a

low club—since East could not hold

more than one club, the odds were

4-to-1 in favor of it being a low

card. A guileless West saw no reason

to squander the queen of clubs—

partner might have held a single-

ton honor—and one of declar-

er's losers had vanished.

Had West paused for thought, he

might have wondered about South's

lead of a low club from hand. To

complete vulnerable at the five-level,

East's red suits could hardly have

been worse than K Q J in diamonds

and ace of hearts. And since East

had bid diamonds first, he probably

held only five hearts. Therefore,

West could afford to go in with the

queen of clubs. Even if partner held

a singleton honor, the defenders

were due to get a trick in each red

suit.

هذا من الجول

Spain, Norway cut key rate

Interest rate fever grips Europe

PARIS (R) — Hopes of lower interest rates to lift the faltering world economy are buoying European bond and stock markets but some economists believe the markets are getting ahead of themselves.

Spain kept the euphoric mood going Friday by cutting its key interest rate by a full percentage point, fuelling expectations that Britain would follow suit next week when the annual budget is unveiled. Norway also cut interest rates.

The prospects are also bright for easier credit in the United States, where the economy remains in the grip of a recession. Even Tokyo is talking of lower rates as the Japanese economy slows down.

But investors in some other countries, such as Italy and France, are being optimistic in betting on lower rates soon, economists said.

"We're close to a turning point in economic activity worldwide and it's inevitable that you get

confusion in the markets with a battle between bulls and bears," said Mark Cliffe of Nomura Research Institute in London.

Spain cut its interest rates Friday because the peseta was threatening to burst through its ceiling in the European Monetary System (EMS), Europe's semi-fixed currency grid.

With the pound sterling also holding up fairly well in the grid, London stocks rallied initially on Spain's move. "I'm sure we'll be seeing U.K. rates coming down next week," Cliffe said.

Italian bonds and shares also surged but economists said local money market rates would need to fall further before the Bank of Italy took the plunge and lowered the discount rate, which has stood at 12.5 per cent since May 19, 1990.

In France, where the flagging economy could use the stimulus of lower rates, the lowly position of the franc in the EMS has forced Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy to dampen the hopes

that he was raising in public as recently as last weekend.

"I want, above all, to avoid raising interest rates and if possible, if the market gives a signal, I want to be able to cut them as a way of boosting economic growth," he said Friday.

Christopher Potts, an economist at Banque Indosuez in Paris, commented: "There's a franc problem. French rates have come down too quickly."

One reason why people are betting on lower interest rates in most of Europe is because they are confident that the cost of money has peaked in Germany, which sets the tone for other EMS countries because of the dominant role of the mark.

But economists said there was no guarantee that Germany would not raise rates further if the cost of reviving the devastated economy of former East Germany continued to rise.

Officials at the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, have also expressed concern about the

potential inflationary impact of rapid money growth and are bound to grow increasingly worried if the mark falls further on currency markets.

Worries about unrest in the Soviet Union and parts of Eastern Europe — big markets for Germany — have driven the mark down just at the time when a tide of optimism about a recovery in the U.S. economy has swept the dollar higher.

Repeated dollar selling by central banks failed to prevent the U.S. currency from topping 1.59 marks Friday.

A continued advance to, say, 1.65 marks could set alarm bells ringing at the Bundesbank because a weak mark makes imported goods more expensive, adding to inflation.

But many economists feel that although the U.S. economy is poised to pull out of recession later this year, the chance of another cut in U.S. interest rates means the dollar could well fall back in the weeks ahead.

U.S. owes U.N. \$700m

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Member states owe the United Nations more than \$1.57 billion in dues and peacekeeping costs, with the United States owing more than half the total, according to figures released Thursday.

The U.S. debt of more than \$700 million includes the new 1991 regular budget of \$272 million plus another \$24 million for peacekeeping.

Most of the American debt to the United Nations, which Washington has promised to pay over a five-year period, stems from arrears over the past decade including \$296 million in dues and \$145 million for various peacekeeping operations.

During the Reagan administration, the United States held back dues, citing political objections and demanding that administrative reforms be carried out.

The world body's 159 members pay contributions to the regular budget based on their wealth and other factors, with eight industrial nations paying more than 75 per cent.

The United States leads with an assessment of 25 per cent, followed by the Soviet Union with 11.57 per cent, including the Ukrainian and Byelorussian republics, which have separate seats and assessments in the United Nations.

Japan is in third place with 11.38 per cent followed by Germany with 9.36 per cent, France with 6.25 per cent, Britain with 4.86 per cent, Italy with 3.99 per cent and Canada with 3.09 per cent.

British jobless top 2 million

LONDON (AP) — The number of unemployed in Britain rose above the two million mark in February for the first time in two years, the government said Thursday. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped to seven per cent in February from 6.7 per cent in January, the Department of Employment said. The seasonally adjusted number of jobless increased by 85,600 in February, much more than the 70,000 gain economists had expected, and up from the 49,300 increase in January. February's was the 11th consecutive rise. The total, unadjusted number of unemployed was 2,045 million in February, compared with 1.96 million in January. It was the first time the number has been over two million since February, 1989.

Tourists trickle back to Egypt after Gulf war

CAIRO (R) — Tourists are starting to trickle back to the Pyramids and Egypt hopes its holiday industry — shattered by the Gulf crisis — is on the mend.

Hotels are still empty, Nile cruise boats sit idle at their piers, and museums and temples are deserted after one of the country's worst seasons in memory. Hoteliers say visitors, frightened away by fear of guerrilla attacks, are beginning to return. The first charter flight from Germany since the end of the Gulf war is due next week.

"When the war ended we immediately felt we could quickly regain our position," said Salah El Derwy, deputy chairman of Egypt's Tourism Board.

There is an important psychological boost for us in the West in that Egypt stood by them and that our boys fought alongside the allies," he said.

Minister of Culture Farouk Hossni last week reopened tombs, temples, museums and monuments, closed after fighting broke out in the Gulf in January.

The industry is a major employer and officials are looking for good times ahead to help absorb the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who enter the labour market each year.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait last August tourism was booming as never before. Around three million tourists had been expected to visit the country in 1990 compared to 2.5 million in 1989. But visitor numbers fell 40 per cent after the invasion and they plunged 80 per cent at the start of the ground war. Officials estimate the loss at \$2.5 to \$3.0 billion.

Andrew Houghton of Cairo's Marriott Hotel, the largest in Western Europe and the Middle East, had virtually no tourists while war raged in the Gulf but now sees signs of recovery.

Last Saturday night the Marriott had 75 tourists, compared to 550 at the same time last year. Businessmen, normally 60 per cent of clientele, began their return even earlier.

"Business has picked up quickly. The problem is that there are not enough planes flying into Cairo yet to bring them in," said Houghton.

Before the crisis, Egyptian hotels had an 85 per cent occupancy rate, among the world's highest, Derwy said.

He said hotels hoped for around 50 per cent of normal summer traffic and that by October the turmoil would be forgotten. A convention of 6,000-8,000 American tour operators is to go ahead in September as planned after earlier hesitation.

But Derwy expects tough competition from countries such as Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. They are also trying to regain business lost during the crisis.

Egyptian officials and tourist agents will visit 10 European cities next month carrying museum pieces and the message that their country is ready for normal business.

"We have had very positive signs from our tourist partners," said Houghton.

U.S. approves sale of only 3 of 6 TWA London routes

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government Thursday tentatively approved the sale of only three of six trans-Atlantic routes to American Airlines by Trans World Airlines (TWA) Inc., creating what TWA called a potential financial disaster.

Analysts said the decision was a blow to both carriers — but especially to cash-strapped TWA.

The U.S. Transportation Department said it tentatively approved the sale of TWA's routes to London from New York, Los Angeles and Boston. But it rejected the proposed sale of routes linking London with Philadelphia, Baltimore and St. Louis, saying their transfer could

diminish competition. American had agreed to buy all six routes into London's Heathrow Airport for \$445 million. The department and industry analysts said the three approved routes represented most of the value of the deal.

American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith said despite only partial approval, American would still buy the three routes.

But TWA owner Carl Icahn said the split decision may unravel the whole deal, pushing TWA into bankruptcy protection.

"I believe that this order could well become a disaster for TWA," he said. "It is unclear

whether the sale to American will be able to be completed and, if the sale is not completed, our financial condition, which is already precarious, will worsen substantially."

American Airlines President Donald Carty said he was pleased that three of the route transfers from TWA were approved but was puzzled over why the department would reject part of the transaction.

On Monday, the United States and Britain resolved a long-running dispute over air rights, striking a deal that would let ailing TWA and Pan American World Airways transfer their Heathrow rights to American and

United Airlines. Under Thursday's ruling, TWA could sell the Baltimore and Philadelphia routes to other airlines. The department tentatively concluded that TWA should retain its right to serve London from its St. Louis hub.

Earlier this year, TWA said in a regulatory filing it might have to file for bankruptcy if the Transportation Department did not approve the deal with American.

February was a particularly bad month for the airlines as the Gulf war caused air traffic to dwindle. Final approval will be decided following a period of public comment ending March 25.

China to extend large commodity loan to USSR

BEIJING (R) — China will make a one billion Swiss franc (\$730 million) commodity loan, one of its biggest ever offers of foreign aid, to the Soviet Union to buy Chinese goods, official newspapers said Friday.

Diplomats described the favourable loan to Moscow, once Beijing's major financial supporter, as extremely significant.

"It's a determined effort by China to stabilise the Soviet Union and (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev," one diplomat said.

"It reflects Chinese concern about what's going to happen in the Soviet Union... China wants a stable environment, and a Soviet Union which is collapsed does not help that," he added.

Premier Li Peng discussed details of the huge credit with visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov Thursday, the official People's Daily said in a front-page report. Both sides had reached an agreement on the loan, it added.

Li "wholeheartedly hopes the Soviet Union can stabilise its political situation and restore and develop its economy quickly," the newspaper said.

The loan will enable the Soviet Union — currently wrestling with severe economic problems — to buy grain, meat and meat products, peanuts, tea, raw silk, tobacco, cigarettes and textile goods, the newspaper said.

China had a record harvest in 1990 and one of its biggest problems in agriculture is storing its bounty.

The official New China News Agency said the loan would also cover light industrial products.

China's state industries have huge surpluses of unsold goods because of sluggish domestic demand.

According to official reports on the meeting, Li said Beijing wanted more cooperation with Moscow on trade, economic matters, science, technology and the defence industry.

Diplomats said China is negotiating to buy Soviet jet fighters, the total cost of which may come close to the amount of the commodity loan.

Beijing's communist leaders, while publicly pursuing better relations with Moscow, have been dismayed by political reform there and in Eastern Europe.

The leaders have been particularly upset at reports of political chaos in the Soviet Union, which shares a long common border with China, diplomats said.

"The Chinese must be thrilled at being able to give this loan,"

said a Western diplomat. "They can say to anyone pushing for political reform, 'look at the mess you get when you go down that path, whereas we have such bounty we can share it with them.'"

The People's Daily said Maslyukov briefed Li on the situation in the Soviet Union and said China's aid was timely.

Li said China was able to offer the commodity loan because of 10 years of opening to the outside world, two years of economic rectification and the bountiful harvest last year.

Moscow added China in the years after the communist revolution in 1949, but withdrew thousands of its technicians in the early 1960s in a bitter dispute over ideology and foreign policy.

The visit to China by Kremlin leader Gorbachev in May 1989 formally ended the Sino-Soviet split.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 14, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	494.0	497.0
Pound Sterling	1247.9	1255.4	Dutch guilder	378.3	380.6
Deutschemark	426.5	429.1	Swedish crown	115.6	116.3
Swiss franc	491.7	494.7	Italian lira (for 100)	57.2	57.5
French franc	125.1	125.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	205.7	206.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8500/10	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1541/46	Canadian dollar	
	1.5810/20	Deutschemark	
	1.7825/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.3713/20	Swiss francs	
	32.60/64	Belgian francs	
	5.3870/20	French francs	
	1181/1182	Italian lire	
	136.00/10	Japanese yen	
	5.8240/90	Swedish crowns	
	6.1820/70	Norwegian crowns	
	6.0810/60	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	363.50/346.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks ended firmer, taking the All Ordinaries index to its highest level for about six months. It ended up 9.8 at 1,445.7.

HONG KONG — Heavy overseas institutional demand for blue chips sent the Hang Seng index to its highest close since the 1987 crash. It soared 94.48 to 3,722.39.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking in active trade. The Straits Times index rose 8.69 points to 1,492.71.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended mixed with a lower bias. Traders said the expiry of futures on the DAX index was the main market factor. The index ended down six at 1,570.55.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly lower. After a firmer opening, profit-taking before the weekend set in. The all-share SPI index fell 1.2 to 1,049.4.

PARIS — A bout of profit-taking dragged the market lower as investors pocketed gains made during Thursday's two per cent rise. The CAC-40 index closed down 16.32 at 1,800.49.

LONDON — Shares stayed weak in afternoon trading on continuing disappointment that there would be no cut in U.K. base rates on Friday. At 1600 GMT the FTSE index was down 8.9 at 2,491.7.

NEW YORK — Prices were steady at moderately lower levels in late-morning trade as earlier heavy activity slowed. The Dow was down three at 2,949.

JORDAN TIMES
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Sie werden hiermit gebeten, am Montag, dem 18. März 1991 zwischen 8 Uhr und 11 Uhr vormittags in der ehemaligen DDR-Botschaft (frühere Ausgabestelle) die ABC-Schutzmaßnahmen nebst Zubehör zurückzugeben. Es genügt, wenn pro Familie eine Person vorspricht. Bitte den Reisepaß mitbringen.

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KING OF THE GYPSIES
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571
NIJOU
THE PUNISHER
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238
PLAZA
DEALING WITH SATANS (Arabic)
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

Yeltsin asks for 'no' vote in referendum to warn Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — Populist Russian President Boris Yeltsin, speaking on the eve of a Soviet referendum on the union, told voters that a "no" vote would send a powerful warning to rival President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yeltsin, in a special broadcast on Radio Russia after being denied full air-time on Soviet television, said the formulation of the referendum question on maintaining the Soviet Union was so broad as to be meaningless.

"Do you think it necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics, in which human rights and liberties will be fully guaranteed for all nationalities?" asks the central question in the poll, approved by the central Soviet parliament.

But he urged supporters in Russia to vote "yes" to a second question, asking whether there should be a general election of the republic's president, a post he seems sure to win.

On the main question Yeltsin declared, in a rare display of self-control: "I think that every citizen must decide himself how to vote."

But he added: "But the failure of the referendum would be a signal to the leadership of the union that the policy it is pursuing needs serious correction, that (the centre) does not and will not resolve existing problems."

Voting "yes" would only perpetuate the "imperial unitary

essence of the union," he said in the broadcast on his republic's radio station. A station official said Radio Russia reached about 90 million of the republic's 160 million residents.

Tensions between Gorbachev and Yeltsin have risen sharply during the referendum campaign. Last Saturday Yeltsin called for a war against Gorbachev's leadership but Thursday withdrew the remarks as an error.

Yeltsin turned down a last-minute offer by Soviet central television — under the thumb of conservatives — for 10 minutes of air-time. His earlier request for 30 minutes was rejected.

Yeltsin, far more popular than his arch-rival Gorbachev, also attacked the use of the term "Socialist republics" in the poll. "The wording of the question directly indicates the union will remain Socialist. With this definition they try, in fact, to get from the people approval of the old system," he said.

It was far more honest, he said, to ask voters for separate approval of the "socialist choice" and not rest on the actions of earlier generations.

Yeltsin had said he supports keeping Russia, by far the biggest and richest of the Soviet republics, within a union, but he wants far more power assigned to the member-states than is envisaged in Gorbachev's blueprint.

Nine of the 15 constituent republics have endorsed the poll, although most have altered the

wording or added questions of their own. The six others have refused to hold a referendum at all, underscoring their demands for greater autonomy or outright independence.

The poll is unlikely to ease tensions between Moscow and rebel republics, hardliners and radicals. The expected "yes" vote, far from marking a Gorbachev victory, may only cloud debate while the country drifts into chaos.

In Russia the second question, proposing direct elections for the republic's presidency, could prove more decisive to the future of the union.

A clear majority on this point would open the way for the emergence of Yeltsin as the first popularly elected leader in Soviet history, delivering a blow to Gorbachev's authority.

The conservative Sovetskaya Rossiya daily appealed to patriotic pride buffered through years of economic decline and self-doubt. "Fears for the motherland" ran its headline over an article denouncing Yeltsin and urging a "yes" vote.

"The union has given us a state that has lifted us in a short time from felt boots and wooden ploughs to orbital space stations," Gorbachev aide Valery Boldin said in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Yeltsin has cultivated a narrower Russian patriotism, portraying Gorbachev as a hostage of

rightist forces determined to retain strong central control.

The Russian Gazette, which largely echoes Yeltsin's views, asked readers to choose between to stark images of Russia on its front page.

One, a sinister grey map seen through bars, represented the nation it said could emerge from a "yes" to Gorbachev's vision of a new federation. The image "other Russia," reflecting Yeltsin's demands for stronger sovereign control by republics over resources, finance and industry, was a pure white.

Campaigners have also used Western-style campaign devices. On Thursday a barrage balloon hovered over central Moscow urging citizens "say yes to the union."

While some may be in favour of the union in principle, the wording presupposes it must be Socialist but does not make clear how much power the "centre" would have over republics.

Time taken to collate results displays the vast size of the Soviet Union, which stretches from the Pacific to the Baltic and from an Arctic north to a subtropical south. First results are expected in a few days while final figures may take over a week.

In the six republics where nationalist governments have refused to cooperate in the referendum, central authorities have set up polling booths in factories and army camps directly controlled by Moscow.

Bonn demands Honecker's return from S. Union

BONN (Agencies) — German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher demanded Friday the immediate return of former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker from the Soviet Union.

Honecker, 78, was secretly transferred to Moscow Wednesday from a Soviet military hospital in eastern Germany, where he had evaded arrest on manslaughter charges connected with the shooting of would-be defectors at the Berlin Wall.

"We cannot and will not accept what has happened in the Honecker case," Genscher told parliament. "The German government expects Mr. Honecker to be brought back to Germany immediately and handed over to the German authorities."

Genscher said the removal of Honecker was a violation of international law and of German-Soviet treaties, regardless of the humanitarian and medical reasons cited by Moscow.

The transition period until the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops from East Germany by 1994 should be used constructively and without either side making unreasonable demands on the other, he added.

"We want Soviet soldiers to leave Germany with feelings of friendship," Genscher said.

Germany's justice minister demanded Friday that Moscow immediately hand over Honecker, but the former East German leader plans to remain in the Soviet Union, Honecker's lawyer reportedly said.

Bonn Thursday night summoned Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Terekhov to demand the return of Honecker.

Doctors at the hospital in Beelitz said Honecker was suffering worsening heart and kidney problems, the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Friday. Officials at the Soviet embassy in Berlin said Honecker was taken to the Soviet Union to receive emergency treatment, TASS said.

Soviet officials reportedly said Honecker was moved because the hospital in Beelitz did not have a kidney dialysis machine.

The Cologne-Bonn Express newspaper quoted Honecker attorney Friedrich Wolff Friday as saying he believes a German investigation against Honecker will be dropped.

"I am deeply convinced that the proceedings against Mr. Honecker will soon be discontinued — for a lack of substance, if you will," he reportedly said.

Asked if Honecker would ever return from the Soviet Union to Germany, Wolff reportedly replied: "No, I don't count on that. He will probably spend the autumn of his life in the Soviet Union."

German Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel said Moscow's decision to fly Honecker to the Soviet Union was a "legally unacceptable act" and demanded he be immediately returned.

Dieter Vogel, chief spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said the government was informed of the Soviet move one hour before Honecker's departure and by then it was "no longer possible" to try to stop the move.

U.K. frees 6 falsely jailed for 17 years

LONDON (R) — After the dramatic release of six men falsely imprisoned for a guerrilla bombing 17 years ago, British police Friday began investigating their own ranks and resumed the search for the real culprits.

Home Secretary Kenneth Baker said police had set up a team to find the attackers, adding that another team was investigating police officers accused of lying in the case.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility for the 1974 bombings at two pubs in Birmingham, in central England, in which 21 people were killed.

It was the most deadly attack in mainland Britain by the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland. It stirred national outrage and pressure for swift police action.

The "Birmingham six" were arrested a year later, but quickly alleged their confessions had been forced.

The six were freed by three court judges Thursday, their emotional reunion with families and friends outside London's Old Bailey courthouse shown in television news bulletins across the country.

Law reformers called their imprisonment one of the gravest miscarriages of justice in British history. The Times newspaper said the case had "tested the British criminal justice system to its limit and found it wanting."

Opposition Labour Party member of parliament Chris Mullin, who campaigned for the release of the six men, has claimed he tracked down the real bombers. He wrote a book in which he said

he interviewed one of them. Mullin, a journalist, has said he cannot reveal his sources and has refused to name his suspects but says police have the same information he has.

"They know who did it," he said. "They've known for years."

Baker told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television Friday that he hoped the information Mullin spoke of would be a starting point for the police investigation.

In 1990, Britain's Granada Television named five men it said were responsible for the bombings. Police have said some were suspects but there was not enough evidence to convict them.

The appeals court that cleared the men found their statements had been falsified and also threw out forensic and scientific evidence used to convict them.

The government quickly announced a complete overhaul of the country's criminal system. Baker said a royal commission, the first in 12 years, would inquire into the entire judicial process from police interrogation to appeal.

Newspapers Friday named the 16 policemen alleged to have lied in the case. Seven are still serving officers.

All have denied they lied, but several had been found guilty of other cases of malpractice.

An independent assessor was appointed to determine how much the six men should be compensated. Media speculation about the amount of compensation each should get ranged upwards to £1 million (nearly \$2 million).

Japan ministers blast city, contractor over disaster

TOKYO (R) — Japanese ministers bitterly criticised the Hiroshima City Government Friday after a steel girder crashed from a monorail construction site onto a busy street, killing 14.

"It is insane to do such construction work without blocking the street," Home Affairs Minister Akira Kikuchi told reporters.

The 53-tonne girder was being lifted into position on Thursday when it toppled from support pylons and demolished a line of cars waiting at a red traffic light.

Four building workers were among the dead. Nine people injured in the accident were still being treated in hospital Friday.

"What sort of instructions did

the Hiroshima City Government give to the contractor?" Fukuda asked. "No matter what it cost, a bypass should have been built to avoid such dangers."

Transport Minister Kanezo Muraoka also expressed outrage. "The streets near the construction site must be closed even if local citizens opposed any traffic diversion," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, police in the Western city searched several offices of the Sakurada Company, the project contractor.

The overhead rail system is to link central Hiroshima with a suburban sports complex, site of the 1994 Asian Games.

Breakthrough imminent in Punjab — Indian premier

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, heading into the election campaign a clear underdog, Friday claimed his four-month government was close to resolving bloody separatist rebellions in Punjab and Kashmir.

Given two more months, he said, "the situation would have been amicably solved" in Punjab. He said a breakthrough was still possible before elections in May.

Chandra Shekhar, heading a feeble minority government, abruptly resigned on March 6. He claimed his efforts were being sabotaged by the larger Congress Party whose support he needed to stay in office.

Congress, led by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, had objected to Chandra Shekhar's approach to Sikh militants in Punjab to negotiate an end to the

bitter independence struggle they began in 1983.

Since January 1990, a Muslim rebellion in the far northern state of Jammu-Kashmir has matched the Sikh insurrection in ferocity.

Another separatist campaign is under way in the eastern state of Assam.

All three areas are under federal rule following the suspension of their local legislatures.

"If I had got — not more, but even two months more — the situation would have been amicably solved" in Punjab, Chandra Shekhar said.

"Even now, in spite of the fact the political situation has changed, I think that there will be a breakthrough before two months... and I am quite hopeful of the settlement of the Punjab problem by mutual discussions." He did not elaborate.



Mrs. Menem tries to escape publicity over divorce

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's first lady has sought to escape the whirlwind of public curiosity sparked by her threats to drag President Carlos Menem into a messy divorce trial.

Zulema Yoma, Menem's 48-year-old wife, moved from her flat in central Buenos Aires to the home of one of her brothers, where she planned to spend a few days resting, an aide said. The first lady's spokeswoman said Yoma was swamped with interview requests ever since her lawyer announced plans to file the divorce suit.

Popular news magazines have run long stories about the rift in the first family, speculating whether Yoma will carry out threats to expose what she claims are the president's marital misdeeds. The media had a chance to see the presidential break-up unravel on television in June, when Menem banned his wife of 25 years from the presidential residence. In a soap opera-like scene, armed guards turned away the blonde Yoma and the couple's two children from the residence's gates.

Yoma's irate statements, accusing her husband's cabinet of corruption, led the press to tout the affair as "the war of the Menems," taking a cue from a popular Hollywood film on an American couple's bloody divorce — "the war of the roses."

Trying to keep the case in a more circumspect perspective Yoma's lawyer, Carlos Volujewicz, said the divorce could end in some kind of friendly settlement.

Britons don red noses for charity

LONDON (R) — Britons stuck red plastic noses on their faces Friday for the third Comic Relief Day, planned to raise money for charities in Britain and Africa.

Organisers put more than nine million "stinkons" — red plastic noses with tiny, waving hands attached — on sale across the country this week. Bigger versions for car bonnets and buildings were also available. Comedy programmes were scheduled for television and celebrity fundraising events were planned across the country. The last comic relief day in 1989 raised £26.5 million (\$49 million). Organisers say two-thirds of money raised will be given to 29 African countries and some of the rest to small British charities that cater to the elderly, homeless and disabled.

Janet Jackson signs top contract

NEW YORK (AP) — Janet Jackson has signed what is believed to be the best paying contract in the history of recording. But her older brother, Michael, could beat that record any day now, the New York Times has reported. The Times said the singer, songwriter, and actress signed an exclusive contract with Virgin Records that has been widely reported to yield as much as \$50 million for three to five albums.

Jackson, 24, has two blockbuster albums to her credit. Control, released in 1986, and Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation, released in 1989, have each sold more than 8 million copies worldwide. But the record for the most lucrative contract is expected to be broken again when Michael Jackson resigning with Sony Records, formerly the CBS label, a deal that is reported to be imminent.

Cuban doctors carry out artificial heart implant

HAVANA (R) — Cuban doctors have implanted a Cuban-produced artificial heart in a 37-year-old man, the first operation of its kind on the Communist-ruled island, the official Communist Party daily Granma has said. The implant of the Cuban electronic heart, known as Coramec, was carried out by a team of doctors at the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in Havana. It was intended to prolong the life of the patient, steel metal worker Francisco Robaina Carmona from Matanzas province, until a compatible human heart could be found for him. The first attempt to implant an artificial heart was made in 1969 in the United States but the practice only became successfully established in developed industrial countries from 1982. Cuban officials say health standards and treatment in Cuba are among the highest in the Third World and compare favourably with those of developed Western nations.

Bangladesh's BNP wins another seat

DHAKA (AP) — The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which won last month's general elections, gained one more seat in parliament, raising its total to 139 in the 300-member legislature, the election commission announced Friday.

Voting was held Thursday in the Munshiganj district near Dhaka. Nationalist Party candidate Shamsul Islam won the constituency, the commission said. Polls in Munshiganj could not

be held along with the nationwide vote on Feb. 27 because of the death of a contesting candidate.

Voting has now been held for 29 seats in parliament. The last seat will be decided on March 28.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by Khuleda Zia, the widow of a former president, fell short of an absolute majority in the vote, but has been promised support by the Muslim Jamaat-E-Islami Party, which won 18 seats.

Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmad has said his caretaker

cabinet stands dissolved as of Friday, but has not specified when he will ask Mrs. Zia to take over.

The Awami League party of Sheikh Hasina, a longtime rival of Mrs. Zia, finished second in the elections with 88 seats. Its allies won another 12 seats.

The Jatiya Party of ousted President Hussain Muhammad Ershad won 35 seats and small parties and independents clinched the rest.

U.N. offers to help Albania with polls, refugees

VIENNA (R) — The United Nations has offered to help Albania organise multi-party elections later this month and control a mass exodus of refugees, the Albanian News Agency (ATA) said Friday.

ATA said a visiting U.N. delegation had agreed to a request from the Communist authorities to send technical advisers for the elections on March 31.

ATA said the authorities had told the delegation that the flood of thousands of Albanians to Italy in the past three weeks had caused unrest at home and problems for neighbouring countries.

Some 20,000 Albanians, disillusioned with limited reforms in Europe's last Communist state, have fled by ship to Italy where the local authorities have been hard pressed to accommodate them.

Hundreds more have crossed the border to neighbouring Yugoslavia or attempted to get entry visas for Western countries.

"The U.N. delegation noticed the great worry of the Albanian government for these irregular departures," ATA said.

"It will convey to the U.N. secretary general and the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) the desire of the Albanian government to contact states, inter-governmental institutions and other organs so that Albania be actively backed up in the present process of political, economic (and) social reforms and to respond to the urgent needs in the humanitarian, economic and financial fields."

18 injured in South African train attack

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — At least 18 people were stabbed and beaten after a gang armed with knives and clubs attacked passengers on a moving commuter train, police said Friday.

Police said unidentified attackers stabbed and beat terrified passengers on the train late Thursday as it headed to the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg. Press reports said scores of terrified people jumped from the train when it stopped at a station.

The attackers escaped and police said they had no information on the men or the motive for the attack, but it appeared linked to black faction fighting.

A series of attacks have been made on passengers on Johannesburg trains, which mainly carry blacks to black townships, in recent months. The attacks have all been linked to black faction fighting.

Police also said a house in Soweto was set fire by attackers early Friday and gutted. No one was injured in the attack, said police, who were trying to determine the reasons for the attack.

The latest violence came after delegations of the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party agreed Thursday to step up efforts to halt faction violence in Johannesburg's black townships.

More than 50 people were killed in street fighting the past two weeks between supporters of the rival opposition groups in Soweto, Alexandra and Tembisa. The government imposed emergency measures, including an overnight curfew, in the three townships.

A joint ANC-Inkatha statement said the groups would conduct investigations to unearth what it called the "criminal element" fuelling conflict between their supporters.

The statement said joint committees would be formed to monitor trouble spots and to work with residents to stop the fighting. It said the committees would be an extension of a Jan. 29 peace agreement reached by ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The statement also called on all residents and the news media to work for peace.

"If the press started encouraging peace we would go a long way in establishing peace," Inkatha official Frank Mdilalose said.

Cambodia rebels beat back government offensives

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodian guerrillas have beaten back heavy government attacks on two major guerrilla strongholds in the west bordering Thailand, a source said Friday, quelling guerrilla battlefield reports.

Government forces withdrew Thursday from their attack on Thmar Puok, capital of the U.S.-aided zone occupied by the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said the source, who spoke on condition he not be further identified.

It was the fiercest fighting in the area since last year, he said. South of Thmar Puok, the Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas repulsed government offensives on Pailin, the Khmer Rouge-held strategic gem-mining town, he said.

"The two offensives were beaten off, and they (the government) suffered heavy losses," he said.

About 100 refugees who fled an embattled village near Thmar Puok arrived at the United Nations-aided camp of Site 2 just inside Thailand late Tuesday, a Western relief official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday.

The Liberation Front is allied with the Khmer Rouge and the

forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in battling the Communist government Vietnam installed in Cambodia after invading in late 1978.

The guerrillas seized Pailin and Thmar Puok shortly after Vietnam made a complete troop pull-out from Cambodia in September 1989.

In the latest counterattack that started a few days ago, government forces rained heavy artillery on Thmar Puok, about 20 kilometres from the Thai border.

The relief official said the troops withdrew after the guerrillas attacked their rear lines of supply.

The guerrillas said Vietnamese troops participated in the attack on both Thmar Puok and Pailin, despite Vietnam's claim that only some military advisors remained in the country.

The Khmer Rouge army radio said Thursday that in the five months to mid-March, government forces launched five big offensives from the north, south and east of Route 10, which runs just south of Pailin.

The broadcast said the guerrillas defeated the army forces. The Communist Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of

people under radical agrarian policies in 1975-78 before Vietnam's invasion ousted it from power in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge makes millions of dollars taxing miners going into Pailin, about 12 kilometres from the Thailand border. The revenue would allow them to keep buying weapons even if China were to cut off its aid as part of any peace settlement, diplomats say.

Meanwhile Japanese, Chinese and Soviet officials held separate talks Friday for peace in Cambodia after new proposals were presented to opposition leaders of the South East Asian nation, a Japanese spokesman said.

Japanese embassy spokesman Yuji Kumamatsu said Japan offered new suggestions on disarmament the warring parties and preventing a return to the genocidal policies that led to hundreds of thousands of deaths under the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s.

Those have been the main points blocking acceptance of a U.N.-brokered peace plan for Cambodia by the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh. The plan would end Cambodia's 12-year civil war.

Kumamatsu refused to give de-

tails of the new proposals presented by Yuji Kumamatsu, a Japanese diplomat from Bangkok who met Thursday with leaders of Cambodia's three resistance factions and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who leads the opposition coalition.

After meeting in Peking this week, Sihanouk and the other three resistance factions reiterated support for the U.N. peace plan, but gave no details of their discussions.

Under the U.N. plan, the United Nations would administer the country during a period leading up to elections.

The Cambodian government rejects key features of the proposed settlement, including disarmament of all sides before elections. It says it needs to maintain its forces to prevent a return to Khmer Rouge rule.

Kumamatsu said the leaders of the guerrilla factions told Ikeda they would study the new proposals.

Ikeda also discussed the new proposals in separate meetings with visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and Chinese officials.

The Soviet Union supports the Hun Sen government. China backs the opposition.

U.S. orders review of police brutality complaints

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it will review all complaints of police brutality filed with the Justice Department in the last six years to probe any systematic misconduct by police departments.

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh made the announcement after meeting two black members of Congress whose concerns over police brutality were spurred by the brutal beating of a black suspect at the hands of white Los Angeles police officers.

A Justice Department spokesman said about 2,500 such complaints are filed annually, which would mean a review of about 15,000 cases.

Thornburgh said in a statement he had ordered a study to examine any relationship between police brutality and the "presence or absence of police department training programmes and internal procedures to deter police brutality."

"Responsible law enforcement officers condemn acts of police brutality by anyone in law enforcement," said Thornburgh, the nation's top law-enforcement official.

Thornburgh said he had asked the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to review six years of complaints "to discern whether any pattern of misconduct is apparent."

The statement was issued after his meeting with representative John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, and representative Edolphus Towns, a New York Democrat, both of whom have expressed concern about brutality in the Los Angeles Police Department.

Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates said last Thursday he would press charges against three police officers and 12 others would face hearings over the beating incident, which was captured on videotape by a local resident.